

THE ELECTRICAL



WORKER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

of the

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Edited by PETER W. COLLINS, Grand Secretary

General Offices: Picrik Building

Springfield, Ill.

Entered as Second-Class Matter, June 6, 1906, at the Post Office
at Springfield, Ill., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Entered at the Post Office at Springfield, Ill., According to Act of Congress as Second-Class Matter

Vol. VIII. No. 4

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., FEBRUARY, 1908

Single Copies, 10 Cents
\$1 per year in advance

FREE PRESS AND FREE SPEECH INVADED BY IN- JUNCTION AGAINST THE A. F. OF L.

A Review and Protest.

EDITORIAL BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

JUSTICE Gould, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, issued an injunction, on December 18, 1907, against the American Federation of Labor and its officers, and all persons within the jurisdiction of the court.

This injunction enjoins them as officials, or as individuals, from any reference whatsoever to the Buck's Stove and Range Co.'s relations to organized labor, to the fact that the said company is regarded as unfair; that it is on an "unfair" list, or on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the American Federation of Labor. The injunction orders that the facts in controversy between the Buck's Stove and Range Co. and organized labor must not be referred to, either by printed or written word or orally. The American Federation of Labor and its officers are each and severally named in the injunction. This injunction is the most sweeping ever issued.

It is an Invasion of the Liberty of the Press and the Right of Free Speech.

On account of its invasion of these two fundamental liberties, this injunction should be seriously considered by every citizen of our country.

It is the American Federation of Labor and the American Federationist that are now enjoined. Tomorrow it may be another publication or some other class of equally law-abiding citizens, and the present injunction may then be quoted as a sacred precedent for future encroachments upon the liberties of the people.

With all due respect to the court it is impossible for us to see how we can comply with all the terms of this injunction. We would not be performing our duty to labor and to the public without discussion of this injunction. A great principle is at stake. Our forefathers sacrificed even life in order that the fundamental constitutional rights of free speech

might be forever guaranteed to our people. We would be recreant to our duty did we not do all in our power to point out to the people the serious invasion of their liberties which has taken place. That this has been done by judge-making injunction and not by statute law makes the menace all the greater.

There is no law in our country and we feel safe in saying that no law could be passed by the consent of the people which would deny to the humblest citizen the right of free expression through speech or by means of the press, and yet this is now attempted by injunction.

There is no disrespect to the judge or the court when we state with solemn conviction that we believe this injunction to be unwarranted.

Suppression of freedom of the press is a most serious thing whether occurring in Russia or in the United States. It is because the present injunction commands this that we feel it our duty to enter an emphatic protest.

It has long been a recognized and an established principle that the publisher should be uncensored in what he publishes, although he may be held personally and criminally liable for what he utters. If what is published is wrong or false it is within the power of the courts to punish by using the ordinary process of law, but not by a judge-made injunction.

The publication of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the American Federation of Labor is the exercise of a plain right. To enjoin its publication is to invade and deny the freedom of the press—a right which is guaranteed under our constitution.

The right to print which has grown up through the centuries of freedom, has its basis in the fundamental guarantees of human liberty. It has been defended and

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

<p>Abraham Lincoln 69</p> <p>An Urgent Appeal for Financial Aid in Defense of Free Press and Free Speech 83</p> <p>"Aaron's Rod" or Government by Federal Judges 89</p> <p>Appeals to the Executive Board... 93</p> <p>Agreement Between the Metal Pol- ishers, Buffers, Platers, Brass Moulders, Brass and Silver Work- ers of North America and the In- ternational Brotherhood of Elec- trical Workers 96</p> <p>Agreement Between the Interna- tional Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Em- ployes 96</p> <p>American Federation of Labor ... 101</p> <p>Correspondence 103-124</p> <p>Deceased Members 85</p> <p>District Council No. 3, Second Dis- trict 102</p> <p>Editorial—</p> <p>Free Speech 79</p> <p>Labor and Party Politics 79</p> <p>A Paradox 80</p> <p>The President's Message 80</p>	<p>Chancellor Day 80</p> <p>Editorial Notes 80-82</p> <p>Free Press and Free Speech In- vaded by Injunction Against the A. F. of L. 70</p> <p>Home Markets v. The Wage Worker 75</p> <p>Information 85</p> <p>Intimate Study of Japs Show Them in Bad Light 87</p> <p>Intermountain District Council No. 2 of the Third District 97</p> <p>Lost 85</p> <p>News Bulletin 99</p> <p>Official Appeal of the Northwestern District Council No. 7 of the Sec- ond District International Broth- erhood of Electrical Workers ... 98</p> <p>Special Notice 84</p> <p>Supreme Court Government 93</p> <p>The Labor Union a Step to Democ- racy 78</p> <p>Talks with The Financial Secretary 82</p> <p>Teaching of Trades 85</p> <p>Unionists Make Strike Breakers Pay 88</p> <p>Unionism in Canada 100</p> <p>What is the Cause of a Panic 90</p> <p>Washington State Federation of Labor 91</p>
--	---

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS.

<p>Benjamin Electric and Mfg. Co.... 66</p> <p>Blake Signal and Mfg. Co...4th Cover</p> <p>Blakeslee, Forging Co. The..4th Cover</p> <p>Boot & Shoe Workers Union.2d Cover</p> <p>Bossert Electric Construction Co.3d Cover</p> <p>Bryant Electric Co.....2d Cover</p> <p>Detroit Leather Specialty Co.3d Cover</p>	<p>Hansen, O. C., Mfg. Co.....4th Cover</p> <p>Hart Mfg. Co.....128</p> <p>Klein & Sons, Mathias.....127</p> <p>Larned Carter & Co..... 65</p> <p>Mechanic Tool Bag Co.....2d Cover</p> <p>Michigan State Telephone Co.3d Cover</p> <p>National Carbon Co..... 66</p> <p>North Bros. Mfg. Co.....128</p>
--	--

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

February 12, 1809—April 15, 1865.

PETER W. COLLINS



THE study of the life and character of Lincoln is always an interesting one and each year finds some anecdote previously left untold, some deed of kindness unrecorded in the history of the past. For after all, apart from the great ability of the Statesman and the advocate, it was the kindness of his character, the gentleness of his every action, and the fortitude with which he bore the trials and affliction of his career from boyhood to manhood that made him so loved by his people.

Lincoln was a plain man who never shrank from doing what he believed to be right, a man who held duty above personal desire and who never compromised principle for policy.

He lived in a time when the qualities of heart and mind in men were put to the test and he stood the test unflinchingly. A brave man, fair to friend and foe, easy in discourse yet determined in character, making friends of enemies by the powerful example of his unswerving loyalty to principle. Such a man was Abraham Lincoln, and it is indeed fitting that the study of his life and deeds should be the inspiration for not only this, but of generations to come.

Many of our presidents were great statesmen, able diplomats and fearless executives. John Adams was pre-eminently the scholar of the white house, Jefferson the statesman and student, Jackson the fearless and brave and McKinley the diplomat.

Adams left his indelible impress on the educational history of his country and his successful effort for free primary and secondary education for the children of the people at the expense of the commonwealth will ever preserve his memory in the hearts of his countrymen. Jefferson, like Adams gave great service to the cause of education and the early political history of his country, aye, and its later history, is indelibly stamped with his personality. The Declaration of Independence is a sample of his effort. The inviolability of the Constitution was his doctrine.

Jackson, while perhaps not as polished as Adams or Jefferson, was possessed of unbounded personal integrity and his successful fight against the renewal of the charter for the U. S. bank as desired by the financiers of his day is an event in history.

Time will tell better than the present the place that the martyred McKinley occupies in the history of his country, but the men of his day accord him the honors as the diplomat.

These presidents were scholarly, far sighted, fearless and diplomatic men, their work was well done; but perhaps to a greater degree than any one of them, Lincoln possessed the talents of all and applied them well. He was the deep and careful thinker, the one man who knew thoroughly the situation before he acted, the far-sighted general of his forces; the calm, collected diplomatic statesman.

Lincoln was not above men, he was of men, he knew the needs of his time and the failings of his kind, but he loved justice, he loved mankind and he gave his all to the people.

upheld by the ablest minds. It ought not to be forbidden by judicial order.

The matter of attempting to suppress the boycott of the Buck's Stove and Range Co., by injunction, while important, yet pales into insignificance before this invasion and denial of constitutional rights.

We shall consider this question fully, and we urge the most serious and careful thought on the subject by our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens.

For years we have pointed out the fact, and we believe the greater part of the intelligent public are in entire accord with us, that the injunction process was originally intended to apply to property rights only, and never was intended to interfere with personal rights—personal liberty. In fact it never is applied to the personal rights and liberties of citizens other than if these citizens are wage-workers.

We discuss this injunction and feel obliged as a matter of conscience and principle to protest against its issuance and its enforcement, yet we desire it to be clearly understood that the editor of the American Federationist does not consider himself thereby violating any law of either state or nation, nor does he intend or advise any disrespect toward the courts of our country. And yet inherent, natural, and constitutional rights and guarantees must be defended and maintained.

The men composing the organizations federated in the American Federation of Labor are as law abiding, as honorable and as upright as can be found in any walk of life.

We feel it our solemn duty to defend our unions and the men connected with our movement from any insinuation that they are lawless or that they are associated together for any unlawful purpose.

Though the wage-workers or their chosen representatives may be the pioneers in this protest, though they may be misunderstood, aye, even persecuted for conscience sake; yet will their labors bear fruit and coming generations of our people will thank those who, at this time, had the clarity of vision to see the right and the courage to strive manfully for the protection of our liberties against aggression.

This injunction against the American Federation of Labor contains many points with which we have hitherto been obliged to deal at long range.

We had hoped that the application for this injunction would be denied on the ground that there was no real basis of complaint in the plaintiff's allegations against the American Federation of Labor. The American Federation of Labor was represented by able attorneys and their arguments showed clearly that there was nothing unlawful in the fact that large numbers of wage-workers simultaneously declined to purchase the Buck's Stoves and Ranges.

The plaintiff for the Buck's Stove and Range Co., also its president, is no other than Mr. Van Cleve, also president of the National Association of Manufacturers. The recent contemptible attacks of the manufacturers' associations' hirelings upon the character of the men of labor are still fresh in the public mind. The application for an injunction against the publication as "unfair" of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. by the American Federation of Labor, savored very much of an attempt to use the courts in the prosecution of the manufacturers' association's avowed union-crushing campaign.

We do not for an instant insinuate or affirm that Justice Gould knowingly lent himself to the machinations of the manufacturers' association, but we feel convinced that he was not at all familiar with the unscrupulous means which the manufacturers' association adopts in order to accomplish its purpose, or he might have hesitated to accept in good faith the allegations of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. in regard to its treatment by the American Federation of Labor.

It is quite true that certain union employees to whom the Buck's Stove and Range Co. declined to concede the prevailing hours of labor, made this fact known to their fellow-workers through the columns of the American Federationist and through many other publications in various parts of the country, and the American Federation of Labor endorsed their position and published the same.

The entire procedure was truthful, fair, and honorable. We had a right to inform the public as to the facts in the case. Wage-workers and, indeed, many others prefer to give their patronage to firms which employ union labor and whose product, for that reason, is likely to be of a more satisfactory quality to the consumer.

If the champions of the non-union shop are so proud of their stand in the matter and so convinced of their own fairness and wisdom we really fail to see why they should object to the publication of that fact.

If, as they claim, the public is with them and disapproves of unions and their method of "collective bargaining," we should think that the publication of that fact of a firm declining to pay union wages or concede union hours would be its best possible advertisement and one that would be eagerly sought. Not so it seems. The Buck's Stove and Range Co. judging from the terms of the injunction desires to stifle the voice of labor and enforce a continuous and unbroken silence on the subject of its bad standing with union workmen.

In the application for the injunction it was alleged by the Buck's Stove and Range Co. that its business had suffered seriously from the refusal of union workmen and their friends to purchase its stoves and ranges. But would not abso-

lute silence on our part as to its hostile attitude toward certain union employes be dishonest? Why should we encourage our members and friends to buy the Buck's Stoves and Ranges under the apprehension that this company deals fairly with union labor? Could not union employers then accuse us of unfair discrimination, of trickery and humbug?

If Mr. Van Cleve's opposition to the union shop is a matter of honest and conscientious conviction we should think he would writhe in pain under an injunction which prevents the publication of that fact.

The injunction is printed in full in this issue of the American Federationist. We hope our readers will study carefully every word and every phrase. It is a most remarkable injunction.

Justice Gould seems to base this injunction on the assumption that there has been a combination of numbers of wage-earners "conspiring" to commit unlawful acts. Such is not the fact. The public should understand clearly the difference between combinations for unlawful purposes and the voluntary association of wage-earners for entirely lawful and proper purposes.

Let us for a moment consider what are some of the aims and purposes of our labor movement; to render means and opportunity of employment less precarious; to improve the standard of life; to uproot ignorance and foster education; to establish a normal workday; instill character, manhood, and an independent spirit among our people; to establish the recognition of the interdependence of man upon man, and that no man can be sufficient unto himself; that he must not shirk a duty to his fellows; to take children from the factory and the workshop, the mill, the mine, and to give them the opportunity of the school, the home and the playground. In a word, to lighten toil, brighten man, to cheer the home and the fireside, to contribute our effort to make life the better worth living. To achieve these ends, all honorable and lawful means are not only justifiable, but commendable, and should receive the sympathetic support of every right-thinking American, rather than bitter, relentless antagonism.

But to return to the consideration of the injunction, Justice Gould quotes Judge (now Secretary of War) Taft's definition of a boycott as follows

"A boycott is a combination of many to cause a loss to one person by coercing others, against their will, to withdraw from him their beneficial business intercourse through threats that unless these others do so, that many will cause serious loss to them."

Justice Gould adopted this definition in preference to that found in the Cyclopaedia of Pleadings and Practice and

seemed to feel that Judge Taft furnished an illustrious precedent for the granting of this injunction.

True, Secretary Taft has an injunction history (see American Federationist editorial, October and November, 1907), but since has become a candidate for President he does not seem proud of that record. He has recently tried to "explain" and not very successfully, because he, like many other injunction judges did not think it necessary, before granting sweeping injunctions, to acquire a knowledge of modern economics and the proper application of judicial principles thereto. Is Judge Taft the highest authority of what constitutes a boycott or grounds for an injunction of this character?

The very injunction proceedings from which Justice Gould quoted Judge Taft, and other precedents he mentions, were cases in which the injunction privilege was abused by being wrongfully applied. Two wrongs do not make a right in an injunction any more than other affairs of life.

Secretary Taft says a boycott is a combination of many to cause a loss to one person by coercing others against their will to withdraw from their beneficial business intercourse by threats.

We defy any one to prove a single instance in this case where men or organizations combined to "coerce" others against their will to withdraw patronage from the Buck's Stove and Range Co. Neither coercion, threats, nor conspiracy, in the lawful sense have been resorted to, yet the whole injunction is based upon this wrong assumption.

Our unions and the men of labor are doing a public service in informing fellow-workers and friends of the fact that certain employers refuse to recognize the associated effort of the workers. This very class of employers organize themselves into combinations and vigorously use the secret blacklist to hound good citizens and union men from employment. They use every weapon, lawful and unlawful, to crush unions. No wonder they are ashamed to have their tactics made public.

The members of organized labor are not themselves obliged to refrain from dealing with the firms on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the American Federation of Labor. The information is given them. There is no compulsion. They are entirely free to use their own judgment.

It must be remembered, however, that for the one firm which declines to employ union labor there are probably a score in the same business which prefer it on account of its greater skill and reliability, and for many other sound, economic reasons. Such firms are conceded to turn out a higher quality of product than non-union concerns. The members of organized labor naturally desire to expend their earnings to the best

advantage when purchasing and wish to be informed as to what firms do and do not employ union labor. In purchasing, it is often a question of the quality of the goods offered. The "boycott" is a letting alone of undesirable goods.

No person can be compelled to buy an article. If the purchaser chooses to let alone certain products for any reason or for no reason there is no way of compelling him to buy.

This injunction can not compel union men or their friends to buy the Buck's Stoves and Ranges. For this reason the injunction will fail to bolster up the business of this firm which it claims is so swiftly declining.

Individuals as members of organized labor will still exercise the right to buy or not to buy the Buck's Stoves and Ranges. It is an exemplification of the saying that: "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink," and more than likely these men of organized labor and their friends will continue to exercise their right to purchase or not purchase the Buck's Stove and Ranges.

It may not be amiss here to say that in all these proceedings, whether before the court or in the contest forced upon labor by the Buck's Stove and Range Co., no element of personal malice or ill-will enters. Labor is earnestly desirous of entering into friendly relations with employers, and this is none the less true of its desire to reach an honorable adjustment and agreement with the Buck's Stove and Range Co. So long, however, as that company continues in its hostile attitude to labor, denying it the right to organize, discriminates against union members, and refuses to accord conditions of employment generally regarded as fair in the trade, it must expect retaliatory measures; these measures always, however, within the law and for the purpose of ultimately reaching an honorable, mutually advantageous agreement.

The publication of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. on the "We Don't Patronize" list of the American Federation of Labor is only an incident in the history of the case. These stoves might have been let as severely alone by purchasers if they had never been mentioned on that list. It is not the matter of removing that firm from the list against which we primarily protest. It is this injunction invading the freedom of the press.

Justice Gould, in one portion of his opinion, says:

"Defendants [the American Federation of Labor] have the right either individually or collectively to sell their labor to whom they please on such terms as they please, and to decline to buy plaintiff's stoves; they have also the right to decline to traffic with dealers who handle plaintiff's stoves."

Here he states precisely the whole case of the American Federation of Labor. This is what we have done. This is the sum total of labor's offending. The publication of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. and other firms on the "We Don't Patronize" list is merely giving truthful information at the request of our members as to whether or not certain firms employ union men and concede the other conditions of employment usually granted by those concerns which recognize union labor.

It would seem that having made the above-quoted statement, Justice Gould would have found in it the reason for a refusal to issue the injunction. He, however, goes on to assume that there has been some unwarrantable interference with the plaintiff's business, though neither in his opinion nor in the injunction itself does he make it clear how he arrived at the conclusion that the union course was any other than as indicated in his own language.

We wish to point out that there exists no law under which we could have been haled before any court for the exercise of free speech and freedom of the press in order to explain to our fellow-workers and friends the circumstances under which the Buck's Stove and Range Co. manufactures its goods, and its attitude toward labor. Yet, under the terms of this injunction, we are peremptorily cut off from the exercise of these rights.

We have had occasion in the past to call attention to the fact that the danger of the injunction, as used in labor cases and in no other, is that persons are often forbidden the doing of perfectly lawful things—are enjoined from the exercise of their rights as citizens, and then found in contempt and punished if they fail to submit to the course laid down in the injunction mandate.

It is puzzling to be charged with coercion, conspiracy and what not, and enjoined from the exercise of free speech and free use of the press just as if we had been guilty of those things of which we are entirely innocent.

It is true that there do exist illegal combinations and conspiracies for the purpose of unwarrantable interference with business, or even its destruction, but these are not organized by wage-workers. The criminal conspiracies in restraint of trade are organized by pirate trusts, by rascally promoters, by unscrupulous manipulators of finance.

The air is filled with the lamentations of the innocent victims of such conspiracies, but do we ever hear of these pirates in the business world being enjoined from continuing their depredations or threatened with contempt proceedings if they do not desist from their unlawful practices which involve property rights. Never! These injunctions are applied to

wage-workers exclusively though they involve personal rights and liberties. It is this denial of equality before the law against which we protest.

In making these statements we are not indulging in unjustifiable or disrespectful criticism of the judge who issued this injunction. We assume that he acted in accordance with the dictates of his conscience and his best judgment.

One point we have been making for years in regard to other injunctions is equally applicable to this case. We contend that the power to issue injunctions involving personal rights and liberties should not be left to the discretion of any judge no matter how wise, how discreet, or how learned.

President Roosevelt in his recent message to Congress made the following comment on the abuse of the injunction power:

"Instances of abuses in granting of injunctions in labor disputes continue to occur, and the resentment in the minds of those who feel that their rights are being invaded and their liberty of action and of speech unwarrantably restrained continues likewise to grow. Much of the attack on the use of the process of injunction is wholly without warrant but; I am constrained to express the belief for some of it there is warrant. This question is becoming more and more one of prime importance, and unless the courts will themselves deal with it in effective manner, it is certain ultimately to demand some form of legislative action. It would be most unfortunate for our social welfare, if we should permit many honest and law-abiding citizens to feel that they had just cause for regarding our courts with hostility. I earnestly commend to the attention of the Congress this matter, so that some way may be devised which will limit the abuse of injunctions and protect those right which from time to time it unwarrantably invades. Moreover, discontent is often expressed with the use of the process of injunction by the courts, not only in labor disputes, but where state laws are concerned."

We earnestly hope that public opinion on this subject will be so compelling, so wide-spread, and so intense that Congress will at an early date crystallize into statute law the expression of this feeling by enacting the American Federation of

Labor bill "to limit and regulate injunctions" which is designed to restrain the improper use of the injunction power and to protect rights which have been unwarrantably invaded.

It is our earnest hope that our protest of today in behalf of justice and right may find expression in the laws of tomorrow.

We have already stated that the case of the Buck's Stove and Range Co. against the American Federation of Labor and its officers is represented by able counsel. Additional counsel, foremost at the bar of our country has been added. Regardless of any phase which the case may assume, it will be continued by the American Federation of Labor until a final decision has been rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States.

We repeat here what we have elsewhere said, that when the true historian shall present to the world the great struggles of the past and of the present; when the tinsel and false coloring shall have been removed from the real figures and events, there will be revealed to mankind's astonished gaze the continuous struggle of labor against tyranny, brutality, and injustice; the struggle for the right, for humanity, for progress, and for civilization. The trade unions and the Federation of our time are in their essence, the continuity of the historically developed progress of labor through the ages. We can not stop; we must go on.

In the official organ of the National Association of Manufacturers, one of the counsel for the Buck's Stove and Range Company declares that punishment for violation of the injunction issued by Justice Gould, against the American Federation of Labor, applies particularly to those within the territorial limits of the District of Columbia who violate the terms of the injunction. That those who violate the terms of the injunction in any other part of the country outside of the District of Columbia can be punished only when they thereafter come within the territorial limits of the District of Columbia. Counsel for the American Federation of Labor assure us that this construction of the court's order is accurate.

—From the American Federationist February 1908.

HOME MARKETS VERSUS THE WAGE WORKER.

CHARLES W. HANSOM.

When the farmers were dependent on local markets, they benefited by payment under the protection, of such premiums on their purchases as tended to diversification of employ and enlargement of local demand, but under modern conditions, selling on the basis of general prices, the farmer finds himself in competition with cheaper labor than is employed in British workshops and competing with new sources of supply that have destroyed his monopoly in European markets, his need for protection is greater than that of manufacturers.

The "home market" advanced by Clay and Greeley was a market in the interest of agriculture, while the "home market" of today is such, exclusively for the manufacturer, as the change in conditions has thrown the farmer into a world market, while leaving the manufacturer the sole beneficiary of the "home market" although politicians representing manufacturers continue talking "the farmers interest" in a monopoly-protected market.

"Protection to American labor," such as it is, is secured through organizations and the expense of competitors reaching the country and this reduced to nominal cost leaves the laborer a competitor with the swelling tide of strange people crowding the factories and shops in this, a "labor protected country."

Wages paid labor in this country have an apparent but not a real value above the wage level in Northern European countries, as the excess here is but little more than is required for subsistence under protection and trust prices. This wage, however, attracts the lowest class of labor from Southern European countries, a labor demoralizing to the independence and prosperity of American workmen.

Students of sociology estimate this immigration at three-fourths of a million annually, which, with the estimated ten millions of very poor and ignorant, congregated in a few states, indicates an alarming increase in population that may become a burden and a menace in times of depression and panic. The wage attractive to this immigration is not so to the higher class of labor of England, Germany and France, as the net results of labors' wages in those countries are about equal to results in the United States.

The Workman's Story.

An American workman who had been voting "protection" to American labor, stood on the dock as an ocean steamer came into port. By his side stood the superintendent of the shop in which he worked and as the steamer drew near it was observed that her cargo of goods

was such as were manufactured in the shop in which the two men were employed. The sight, however, did not disturb the superintendent, who knew the tariff of 50 per cent on the goods would destroy all chance of competition with the products of his shop. These two men, representing respectively American goods and American labor, watched with interest the approaching steamer, the superintendent observing the goods until duties were paid, the workman watching the mass of humanity on board, for whom "the gates of Castel Garden always swing inward," and from these he observed that no tariffs were collected. The motly crowd of a thousand passed the gates of Castle Garden and were registered from Southern Europe, the workman watching the newcomers as they disappeared in the throng of the city.

In a few days the men he had observed leaving the steamer were gathered about the shop in which he was employed and were conversing, through an interpreter, with the superintendent, and on the following morning, when as usual, the laborer went to his work, he was notified of a reduction of 25 per cent in wages, to take effect the first of the ensuing month and at the same time told that if he chose he could quit as "the gates of Castle Garden were swinging inward to the labor of the world."

The workman, who was an intelligent American, had always felt a pride in his country and a love for its institutions, but when he saw government shielding the products, but not the labor, of shops from foreign competition, with wife and children dependent upon his wages, he became impressed with the conviction that with corporations enthroned in high places the dignity and independence of American labor had parted.

The workmen employed in the shop made protest against the proposed reductions, but to no effect. "It is a matter of business?" said the superintendent, "to buy labor where I can obtain it the cheapest. You should understand," he said to the men, "the inexorable law of supply and demand fixes wages and you see with this great supply of labor applying for work you must expect reduction in pay."

"Besides, continued the superintendent, "the men now in the shop are manifesting a dangerous independence in politics, questioning the wisdom and beneficence of tariffs and we must have employees who will vote without question in the interest of prosperity. We must protect our business." The workman knew he was meant, for when watching the steamer with the superintendent he had remarked that the proper definition of protection would seem to be "a bounty

to manufacturers paid by farmers and shop labor in the purchase price of domestic goods, from which millions of unearned money was flowing into the coffers of protected industries."

Upon receiving notification of a reduction in wages, the men desired to see the directors, with whom they wished a consultation, but were informed that this was impossible, as three of them were traveling in Europe and the other two were yachting in northern waters and hence the action of the corporation's agent had to be accepted as final.

The manufacturer is privileged to purchase labor in the open markets of the world, while selling his finished products at trust prices in a protected market and so when money and labor were dear the manufacturer claimed he would not require protection except for this expense. But as wages and money cheapened, the demand for protection became more vehement, until a 50 per cent protection is maintained.

Protection does not involve political principle, is not a question of belief or conviction, but one of policy only, which may be expedient at one time and wholly inexpedient at a subsequent period. And as a question of pecuniary advantage to favored classes it has done more than all else to debauch and corrupt political methods and legislation.

Farmer Brown's Experience.

Farmer Brown, who for twenty-five years had supported his party, went with his son John to attend a political meeting where the speaker talked little else than "tariff protection," alleging that this was in the interest of American labor and a "home market" for the farmer. This sounded well, and while Brown had not studied the question because he was told he could not understand it, yet he and John decided to vote for protecting the interest of farmer and laborer.

It was during the campaign in which the manufacturers contributed thousands of dollars to the campaign fund conditioned that they be permitted to draft a tariff bill. This fund, according to the logic of tariff advocates, was given in order that "the manufacturers might be able to pay the farmer better prices for raw material, pay better wages to labor, and sell all classes cheaper goods." Now, while this may sound absurd, it is nevertheless good protection doctrine, a proposition, however, that Farmer Brown could not comprehend, but the "home market" argument having caught him, he and John voted for protection. Nor did they stop to consider that it was during the years of high tariff that the products of their labor had suffered ruinous shrinkage in price, that labor had likewise suffered and that debts and mortgages had multiplied alarmingly in

agriculture districts nor that the great wealth of the country created largely by agriculture was being appropriated by the few. Neither did they consider that it was during the period of protection to American labor that the influx of cheap foreign labor had been forcing down wages and crowding American labor out of employment.

The election passed, as did the manufacturers' tariff bill, and John, having concluded to try the lot of protected workmen, soon found employment in one of the large stove foundries of a city.

A few months later Farmer Brown, wanting a stove, took a load of wheat and drove to the shop in which John had found employment. On reaching the shop the superintendent met him and showed him his goods, pricing the stove selected at \$23. Farmer Brown was somewhat surprised at the price and drew from his pocket a paper in which there was an advertisement of a stove of similar pattern and weight, made in Toronto, the price of which was seventeen dollars. This the farmer showed the superintendent, who replied, "My stove is an American product, and this market, you know, is for American products; besides, if you bought the Canadian stove the tariff would bring the cost up to that of mine."

So the farmer as a friend of American production, but chiefly because he couldn't help himself, concluded to take the stove. But having brought no money, he asked the superintendent if he could make payment in wheat.

"Oh, yes," said the superintendent, "wheat is all right; just as good as gold."

"What's it worth?" asked the farmer.

Walking across to his desk the superintendent took up a leaflet containing the latest Liverpool quotations, and after a moments inspection, replied, "Wheat in Liverpool is selling at ninety cents, changes to Liverpool are thirty cents which leaves sixty cents the price."

"But, said the farmer, "how's this? I bought your stove in the American market at American prices and you buy my wheat in the world's market at world prices and yet you told me this was an American market for American products—a home market for the American farmer, protected from foreign competition."

"Oh, said the superintendent, "it must have been some politician who told you about the home market for the farmer, as we always buy food supplies and raw material based upon the world quotations and when I spoke of home markets I meant for My products, not yours."

"Well," said the farmer, "as I can do no better, I must make the best of it, but I shall mark this down as "Tariff Lesson Number One."

Having finished his trading, and wishing to see his son, before going and to

learn how he was getting on so he might take word to his mother, the farmer asked the superintendent where he might be found. Taking up the roster containing the names of workmen, the superintendent replied: "Your son was here, but he is not now."

"And why not?" "Was he not a sober and industrious workman?"

"Oh, yes, no objection in that line," said the superintendent, "but he would not work as cheaply as the new help offering their services and so he, with two or three hundred others struck against a reduction of wages, his place being filled by that man you see there."

"And where did that man come from and who is he?" asked the farmer.

"Well, now I can't tell you his name because I can't pronounce it, but he came from some place in Southern Europe and is either a Russian, Hun., Slav., or Italian. Those people work very cheaply, as they live at a cost of not more than ten or twelve cents a day and you see the opening up of those countries to commerce has opened up great competition with labor. In the wicked strike against reduction of wages that occurred among our workmen, John was not the leader, but he went along with the others, they all claiming that I had no moral right to hire a cheaper foreign labor when their voters had protected me and when their labor had helped build up this plant. These new men had heard something about strikes which when they occurred would afford the chance to get in, and so they came over here and when a strike occurs they are in readiness to take the place of those who walk out. I tell you whenever men have jobs that thousands are waiting for they had better stick to them, even though they should live on bread and water."

The farmer asked if his son might not be in the shop across the way, but was told that he was not, as there was an understanding among all the shops that each should furnish the names of strikers to all others in order to prevent further employment of those who had once joined the strike.

"And is this," said Farmer Brown, "making tramps of American workmen, protection to American labor?" "This, then, I enter as "Tariff Lesson Number Two."

Turning to the superintendent, the farmer with something of warmth, said:

"John and I have always been hard-working people, we have never studied politics, money and tariff questions, as the speakers who have advocated tariff have always told us that not one in ten thousand understood or knew anything about tariffs, hence we have been voting, as we believed, for protection to farm and shop labor. I am now thoroughly convinced that no person could ever understand the effects of tariff, from the speeches of your representatives, but this visit to your shop has given me sufficient information of a practical kind, even without the knowledge of tariff schedules, to understand that the resulting benefits from tariffs are all to you and none to agriculture and labor; that your claims are false and your measures fraudulent and being promulgated solely in your interests are destructive to prosperity of productive labor. The farmer is forced to the lowest price for his commodities, while the cheapest and most debased of all labor is competing with the American workman. And when you point to Clay and Greeley as authority for the fraudulent protection of the present you cast a stigma upon the honored names of those whose life-work was for the elevation, and not degradation, of labor, belying those who advocated markets for the farmer, and not monopoly for manufactures. The question of principle championed by my party thirty years ago having long since been settled, no material declarations appear in its platform of the present, other than those in favor of high tariff, the meaning and purpose of which is maintenance of a monopoly market, a union of selfish interests in political organization for the spoilation of labor through corruption of the agencies of government. Your tariff system for protection is a fraud, as it taxes consumption and not accumulation, the fictitious prices of goods under its operations being fraudulently obtained under the false pretense of protection to labor.

You are privileged to buy food supplies and labor in the open market, and under the guise of protecting labor you are selling your products at trust prices, shielded from world competition, the policy of dear selling and cheap buying, giving you millions at the expense of agriculture and labor."

THE LABOR UNION A STEP TO DEMOCRACY

PORTIONS OF A SERMON DELIVERED BY THE REV. DR. E. A. WASSON IN ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEWARK, N. J.

FUNDAMENTAL democracy and fundamental Christianity are the same thing, approached from different sides. Jesus approached it from the religious side; Lincoln from the political and economic. Lincoln was the first, that is, the greatest American. Washington was a gentleman after the old English idea. Lincoln was a man after the new American idea. To be a gentleman is much; to be a man is more. Jesus' favorite term for Himself was Son of Man, that is, Man. Lincoln was simple, elementary, always contemporary. We do not associate him with accidents of dress peculiar to his day, as we do Washington. He is not for a day, but for all time. After generations of toil and tribulation we shall arrive at a better state of society, only to find that Lincoln has anticipated us. It will be long before Americans cease to sit as learners at the feet of Father Abraham.

Lincoln was the successor of Jefferson. Lincoln did for a race what Jefferson and his contemporaries did for a nation. They both stood for the democratic idea and against the aristocratic idea. Democracy says one man is as good as another, and ought to have an equal voice in the government. Aristocracy says that one man is better than another, and is competent to rule not only himself but others as well. The creed of democracy has two short articles. The first is, I am as good as you. The second is, You are as good as I.

Lincoln's early conditions were not so unfavorable as might be supposed. With all its deprivations, there was at least freedom and equality. One man was as good as another, the employed as the employer. Those conditions made for the democracy, which says that the whole is greater than any part. Lincoln believed in nothing less than the whole, that two heads are better than one, and three than two. He had faith in man, and the more man the more faith. When aristocracy said that the common people were ignorant, inefficient, inexperienced, fickle, Lincoln answered: It may be true, but they can be taught, they can be trained, and it is best for them to profit by their own blunders.

Always there is that effort to discredit the people, to get away from them, to get above them. This it is which has made the national Senate the most eminent assemblage of rogues that ever gathered together, that in a republican nation they are unrepresentative and irresponsible. How many of them would be out of the

penitentiary if the laws were executed on them?

And does anyone suppose that if the people were free to choose, the present incumbents would be selected? And likewise with our judges, who are becoming the most dangerous menace to the freedom of the country. If the people were left free to select they would at least select men that looked to them, and not to organized wealth, as their masters. We are bidden to say nothing that will undermine respect for the judiciary. It is the bounden duty of every good citizen to say all that he can to undermine respect for any institution that does not deserve respect; and the judiciary does not.

It is safer to defy the Lord God Almighty than to criticize a judge. The Lord God won't bother about you, but the judge will throw you into jail for months without hearing or trial. On what meat hath this our judicial Caesar fed that he hath grown so great? With his injunctions he comes near to making other functions and arms of government superfluous. Who is he anyway? In nine cases out of nine a man who cringes before the money power, that put him where he is, and bestrides us common mortals, whose bread he is eating, like a colossus. It is because that practically nowhere have the people the choice of these men. They are put where they are by the corporations directly, or through their tools, the political bosses. Lincoln stood in no awe of these people. He denounced a decision of the Supreme Court of the nation as "a burlesque upon judicial decisions, a slander and profanation upon the honored names and sacred history of republican America. It must be overruled and expunged from the books of authority." "The people," he said, "the people are the rightful masters of both congresses and courts."

What is needed is a direct control by the people over their servants and their legislation. They must be able to oust any man that contravenes their will; to initiate legislation that their misrepresentatives refuse to enact, and to check and thwart legislation hostile to their interests. These same classes that are so fearful that the people cannot take care of themselves are the same class that crucified Jesus, and who would have done it long before had they not feared the common people who heard Him gladly. Let these presidents and judges and legislators look to the rock whence they were hewn and to the hole of the pit whence they were digged.

EDITORIAL.

PETER W. COLLINS.

FREE SPEECH. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia restraining President Gompers from exercising his Constitutional right of free speech (in the Buck Stove boycott case), is one not calculated to increase respect either for the Judiciary or its knowledge of the Constitution. The injunction itself is an absolute violation of Constitutional rights for the amendment to Art. 1, of the Constitution states: "*Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press.*" It is therefore evident that what the Congress itself is restrained from doing its creatures *can not do*; and all courts (Federal) except the U. S. Supreme Court are the creatures of Congress.

When the good citizens of the land wake up to a realization of the fact that Injunction or Judge made law, is an usurpation unwarranted by the Constitution, they are likely to be restrained from expressing their objections or their opinions.

LABOR AND PART POLITICS. The Labor Movement *will not* and *can not* be made the tail of any political party kite.

Partisan politics has no place in the movement. Trade Unionists individually and collectively should endeavor to enhance the principles for which *Labor* has been striving, but any subserviency of those principles to any man or party will retard the progress of Labor.

Trade Unionism stands for the cleaner and the better things in civic life. It stands for fair dealing and justice in the affairs of men and it has accomplished much in its work for the common good. But it does not and will not tolerate the *Charlatan*, the *corruptionist* or the *hypocrite*.

It is the duty of the trade unionist to take a deep interest in civic affairs, more so today perhaps than at other time in our history, for today from the house-tops and the soap box, from the forum and the Editorial sanctum we hear the cry of the *fakir*, the *sophist* and the *politician*, appealing to Labor to follow them.

There are some men in the Labor Movement whose trade unionism is secondary to their political affiliation and these men would if they could, use the movement for their own selfish ends. But the men of Labor realize that the principles of Labor are above party politics. Labor will in its own way—the ballot box—remember its friends and punish its enemies, but it will not stand for the scheming politician or the political Editor dictating what its policy shall be.

The man who asks questions usually gets the information he wants, while the fellow who needs information but is too proud to ask questions makes his own progress impossible.

A PARADOX. When all is said,—and some things added—Congress is indeed a remarkable body. One branch—the House—is governed by a shrewd, eagle eyed Banker—Farmer—Politician—Union busting Czar from Danville, Ill.; a gentleman of culture with a morbid appetite for bad cigars and an overwhelming desire for the Presidency.

The other branch—the Senate—rejoices in the possession of Aldrich, the father-in-law of the junior Rockefeller. This “captain courageous” with several engineers from Wall Street give that body the time of its life.

Work is done, so rapidly, that it is common knowledge Senators die young and in straightened circumstances. However, we can’t expect the impossible from the impossibles.

**THE
PRESIDENT’S
MESSAGE.**

The message of President Roosevelt is a splendid addition to the Literature of the Nation. The clear, clean cut vigorous style would in itself be sufficient to commend it to the attention of the discerning citizen. But apart from the style it certainly covers some ground and we are inclined to believe it will bring good results. Those who were predicting the setting of the Roosevelt star have had a rude awakening.

We admire the message because it is a logical document; we admire the manner in which it is written and we admire the man who had the courage to write it.

Roosevelt’s star may be setting but the people will remember—regardless of his mistakes—the service he has rendered the country.

**CHANCELLOR
DAY.**

We sympathize deeply with the Chancellor for the unenviable position the President has placed him in. “Hireling of a Criminal Trust,” is a harsh term to be applied to Rockefeller’s chief soloist, and yet we are under the impression that the Chancellor rather enjoys his position; for the *balm* to the injured is indeed mighty.

Perseverance is the life buoy of success.

Suggestion is valuable when it is practical.

Constructive ideas give stability to judgment.

Envy should have no place in the life of a real man.

If you must be a dreamer, practice in your sleeping hours.

If the words of some men were as good as their bond, they’d be bankrupt.

“Politics makes strange bedfellows,” and also keeps the laundry wagon busy.

The value of ability is determined by its application rather than its possession.

Books serve the double purpose of imparting knowledge and aiding concentration.

Softness of speech doesn't necessarily denote softness of backbone.

Wealth is by no means on par with brains and yet it seems that wealth has the call.

In an age when men are *made*, not *born*, *hereditary* is the excuse of the failures.

Ambition may be the stepping stone to greatness, but many have tripped in ascending.

If all the good things said about us were true, few would resent the occasional knocks.

The pessimist's view of events is determined more often by his disposition than his reason.

Tolerance of sophistry (too often called freedom of thought) is usually the cloak of hypocrisy.

The fact that all men have some good points is no justification for any man exploiting his bad ones.

Exercise tact in all dealings. Controversy may sharpen your wits, but it also impedes your progress.

The aspirant who would accept nothing less than the Presidency usually lands the village Post Office.

When seeking for merit in argument, judge by that which is presented rather than *how* it is presented.

Ideas are measured by quality not quantity; therefore don't reject the one good one for a variety of bad ones.

The science of government has become quite mechanical; stretching the Constitution is easy work these days.

"A little knowledge" may be "a dangerous thing" yet without even that little we fear many of us would be badly off.

If common sense was for sale in the market place, few would purchase; not that they don't need it, but they don't use it.

While we realize it is easier to offer advice than to accept it, we at least ought to profit by it when it can be of service.

On the road to success the mile-posts are marked by obstacles and not bouquets and it is a wise claimant who learns and applies the moral.

The time wasted by the average man in reading *trash*, if properly applied, would bring splendid returns in special and general knowledge.

The desire for preferment in any walk of life is commendable, but he who demeans his talents to obtain preferment sacrifices his self respect.

Serious study does more for a man than abstract philosophy on studies; knowledge is acquired by seeking it, not in wondering how others sought it.

We admire the man who stands by his guns; he may be wrong but he at least has the courage of his convictions; while he of the vacillating spinal column has neither the courage or the convictions.

Naturally there are some men possessing greater talents than others, yet the man who has a single talent and properly applies it, is deserving of more commendation than he who has many and applies but one.

If all the men who are positive they are great men—and their number is legion—were allowed to determine their own positions in comparative History, we would see more than one Caesar "*making for the woods.*"

TALKS WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

REQUESTS for interpretation of Constitutional points should be sent direct to the G. V. P. of your District and not the G. S.

* * *

MEMBERS in arrears to Local Unions in good standing can be reinstated through another L. U. only by consent of the L. U. to which he is in arrears.

* * *

MEMBERS in arrears to Local Unions in arrears and defunct L. U.'s can be reinstated through the G. O.

* * *

NEW members must be reported to the G. O. on the first sheet after initiation, and not several months after.

* * *

AFTER making out current per capita sheet, the F. S. should check with his verified duplicate of the preceding month, and thus avoid errors. Before a new member is initiated, ascertain from the G. O. if he has a previous membership record.

* * *

A MEMBER should have only one card number and a Local has no right to change that number when he deposits or is issued a traveling card.

MEMBERS in arrears are not entitled to a WORKER, therefore send corrections for mailing list each month.

* * *

REPORT all withdrawal cards issued so that proper record may be made at General Office.

* * *

PER capita sheets made out with hard indelible pencil make a permanent original record and give clear carbon copy.

* * *

LOCAL Unions failing to comply with Sec. ??, Art. ??, of the Constitution by not forwarding Trustees report will not receive the pass word.

* * *

REQUESTS for information should be written on one side of paper only. This also applies to WORKER letters.

* * *

UNDER the Constitution L. U. Officers (F. S. and Treas.) must be on blanket bond as provided in Section 1, Art. 24. As the position is bonded there is no extra charge when changes are made of officers. The F. S. and Treas. of each L. U. will be included on blanket bond and the L. U. will be billed for cost of bonding, \$4.00 per \$1,000, proportionate part on pro rata basis.

OWING to a severe attack of the La Grippe which has confined me to my home for over a month communications for the personal attention of the Grand Secretary have been delayed. Such communications as have not been answered, however, will receive immediate attention.

* * *

OWING to a shortage of due card stock on the market, special lots had to be manufactured by the manu-

facturers. We regret the delay in filling orders but as there is only one firm making this particular kind of stock, delay is unavoidable.

* * *

SECRETARIES desiring to receive statistical reports on Labor and Industry can secure same by dropping postal to U. S. Commissioners Labor, Washington, D. C. These reports are valuable and give much data of special interest.

AN URGENT APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL AID IN DEFENSE OF FREE PRESS AND FREE SPEECH.

TO ALL ORGANIZED LABOR, GREETING:

Justice Gould of the Supreme court of the District of Columbia, has issued an injunction against the American Federation of Labor and its officers, officially and individually.

The injunction invades the liberty of the press, the liberty of speech. It enjoins the American Federation of Labor, or its officers from printing, writing, or orally communicating the fact that the Buck's Stove and Range Company has assumed an attitude of hostility toward labor, and that organized labor has made this fact known, and asks its friends to use their influence and purchasing power with a view of bringing about an adjustment of all matters in controversy between that company and organized labor. The injunction is of the most sweeping character, and it, as well as the suit in connection therewith must, of necessity, be contested in the courts, though it reach the highest judicial tribunal of our country.

With this is a reprint of an editorial from the February, 1908 American Federationist, entitled "Free Speech, Free Press Invaded by Injunction Against A. F. of L.—A Review and Protest." The editorial contains a full presentation of labor's position in regard to this injunction.

The Executive council of the American Federation of Labor has retained the services of Hon. Alton B. Parker, former chief justice of the court of appeals of the state of New York and Messrs. Ralston and Siddons as counsel to defend the rights of labor and the more general rights of all our people involved in this injunction and suit; the rights, as we have said, of the freedom of press and the freedom of speech.

The Norfolk convention of the American Federation of Labor authorized the levying of an assessment of one cent per

member of affiliated organizations for this case and gave the executive council power to levy additional assessments, if necessary. One of these assessments has been levied, but it is found to be insufficient to meet the exigencies and needs of the case.

We believe that organized labor, its membership and its friends, would prefer to make voluntary contributions of financial aid rather than additional assessments be levied.

Because of the necessity to defend the fundamental rights of free speech and free press of the working people today, and which may involve the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech of all our people in the future, we appeal to all unions and union members, and the friends of justice to contribute as promptly and as generously as they can, in order that a legal defense fund may be at the disposal of the American Federation of Labor to defend the rights of labor, and the rights of our people before the courts.

Send all contributions direct to Frank Morrison, 423-425 G street northwest, Washington, D. C., who will send receipt for same.

Fraternally yours,

Saml. Gompers,
President.

Attest:

Frank Morrison,
Secretary.

James Duncan, First Vice-President,
John Mitchell, Second Vice President,
James O'Connell, Third Vice-President,
Max Morris, Fourth Vice-President,
D. A. Hayes, Fifth Vice-President,
Daniel J. Keefe, Sixth Vice-President,
Wm. D. Huber, Seventh Vice-President,
Jos. F. Valentine, Eighth Vice-President,
John B. Lennon, Treasurer,
Executive Council American Federation
of Labor.



Official Journal of the

INTERNATIONAL

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Published Monthly.

PETER W. COLLINS, Editor.
Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

Grand President—F. J. McNULTY,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.
Grand Secretary—PETER W. COLLINS,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.
Grand Treasurer—F. J. SULLIVAN,
Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.

GRAND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

First G. V. P.—JAMES J. REID,
1309 Sassafras St., Erie, Pa.
Second G. V. P.—JAMES P. NOONAN,
1300 McCausland Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill.
Third G. V. P.—MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN,
350 Scott St., San Francisco, Cal.

GRAND EXECUTIVE BOARD.

First District—GEO. C. KING,
179 Waverly St., Buffalo, N. Y.
Second District—JOHN J. McLAUGHLIN,
111 Saratoga St., E. Boston, Mass.
Third District—WM. S. GODSHALL,
5415 Osage Ave., Phila. Pa.
Fourth District—JOHN E. O'CONNOR,
626 E. 23d St., Paterson, N. J.
Fifth District—JAMES FITZGERALD,
1924 Leyner St., Des Moines, Ia.
Sixth District—WALTER M. GRAHAM,
208 Main Ave., San Antonio, Texas
Seventh District—H. M. SCOTT,
Care Examiner, Los Angeles, Calif.

Subscription, \$1.00 per Year, in Advance.

As The Electrical Worker reaches the men who do the work and recommend or order the material, its value as an advertising medium can be readily appreciated.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., FEBRUARY, 1908.

Advertising rates may be secured by writing to the Editor.

This Journal will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

The first of each month is the closing date; all copy must be in our hands on or before.



Illinois State Journal Co., Springfield.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

REFERENDUM BALLOT VOID.

The following decision of Grand President McNulty is self-explanatory. Copies of the referendum ballot have been sent to the Executive Board for such corrections as will make the ballot a legal one as per the decision of the G. P.

The Grand Secretary has no authority to make alterations in proposed amendments submitted to him by the E. B. for referendum action and such amendments will be submitted to referendum vote in the exact form in which they come from the E. B.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Jan. 14, 1908.

Mr. P. W. COLLINS, *Grand Secretary I. B. E. W.*, Springfield, Ill.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I am in receipt of various complaints regarding the official ballot sent out to our local unions for the purpose of voting on the amendments as submitted by the G. E. B. in accordance with Section 1 of Article 24 of our Constitution. It is contended that several mistakes have been made and, upon investigation, I find that the contentions are true, and you are hereby instructed to notify our membership at large that I have this day declared the recent vote on the above referred to amendments null and void.

You are therefore, instructed to publish this decision in the next issue of our official journal, THE ELECTRICAL WORKER, and prepare and send to all local unions corrected ballots with notification of this decision therewith, with instructions that all members vote again on the amendments as corrected and submitted.

Inasmuch as Section 1 of Article 36 of the Constitution allows each local union sixty days to return the votes after the petition therefor is received, I urgently request that you see to it that the corrected ballots are forwarded to each local union on or before February 29th so that an official count can be made and published in the May issue of our official journal.

With best wishes, I beg to remain,
F. J. McNULTY,
Grand President.

NOTICE.

To all Members of the I. B. E. W.:

That the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Co., operating in the state of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah is unfair to the Electrical Workers and all organized labor.

J. R. CURRIE, President,
Inter-Mountain District Council.

FRUITVALE, CAL., Jan. 16, 1908.

P. W. COLLINS, G. S., Springfield, Illinois.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: This is to notify you as per Art. XIV, Sections 8 and 9, and for publication in the WORKER, that Local Union 217 of Seattle, Washington, is in a recognized difficult, through the Seattle Youkon Exposition being declared unfair by the Local Central Body, and our members being locked out by a number of contractors along with other mechanics with the design of forcing the open shop policy in Seattle generally. Nearly the whole of our membership is on the street, and conditions are bad through lack of work. Members should be warned to keep away from here, as traveling cards will be refused until trouble is settled.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. Cook,

Pacific Dist. Council No. 1, I.B.E.W.

Local 456 (inside wiremen) has been having trouble since Oct. 1, 1907, and we want all men to please keep out. There are more men than jobs now. Business is very dull with no chance of getting better before summer. Would like to receive a letter from some brother in Pueblo, Colo. R. F. Davis, 107 South Hudson St., Oklahoma, Okla.

All correspondence of Local No. 61 should be directed to Bro. M. B. Davidson, University Station, Los Angeles.

INFORMATION.

If any of the brothers of Local 155 see this and are acquainted with the writer, please drop me a line; and if Wm. Nelson sees this, write John A. Morrison, 611 N. First St., Albuquerque, N. Mex.

If Bro. Harry G. Folan should see this or any one knowing his present address, please write to Bro. L. E. Ryckley, Ft. Smith, Ark., General Delivery,
Obligingly yours,
L. E. RYCKLEY.

If Bro. Wm. Williams sees this I would be pleased to hear from him. J. B. Bridges, care Postal Tel. Co., La Junta, Cal.

Should this meet the eye of Bob. McWilliams, Jim Upton or Geo. Puckett, please write J. C. Shadwick, Postal Tel. Co., Los Vegas, N. Mexico.

If any one knowing the whereabouts of H. J. Butler, or if he should see this, please write to J. E. Burton, 325 N. 521 St., Birmingham, Ala.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of R. E. Ware, please notify G. W. Brown, 316 N. 18th St., Birmingham, Ala.

LOST.

Due Book for 1907, made out to L. Osborn, Card No. 114530, has been stolen from him, and please notify all Locals to be on the watch for it, and take it up if it appears so that no one else can use it and notify me.

Yours truly and fraternally,

EDW. STIERN,

Bakersfield, Calif.

DECEASED MEMBERS.

Resolutions of condolence have been adopted by the several Locals on the death of the following members:

L. F. Menne, L. U. 246, Steubenville, O.
Clarence Ripley, L. U. 43, Syracuse, N. Y.

TEACHING OF TRADES.

Attitude of Labor Unions Toward Apprentices--Liberal Number Allowed--
Master of Workshops the Chief Objectors --Do Not Desire to Be
Bothered With Learners--How the Apprenticeship
System Went Out.

From the commencement of factory systems in the early part of the nineteenth century until the last decade the boys of the two greatest industrial

countries—America and England—have been sadly neglected. The estimation of the value of the apprentice which obtained in the seventeenth and eighteenth

centuries almost entirely disappeared upon the introduction of machinery and organized factories. The boy was used, it is true, but only as a factory "cub" and because he could perform some mechanical operation as well as a man and at greatly reduced cost. He was hired at no better rate of pay than apprentices had obtained, and he was taught nothing but some single operation.

In some shops a few apprentices were still taken on, but their condition was no better, than that of the machine boys. The regular mechanics did not look favorably upon them, and as it was nobody's business to teach them they learned but little. They were the butt of every workman and were considered an unmitigated nuisance by busy foremen. And the employers, hearing no good results from them, gradually lost all interest in the system (such as it was), so that during the middle of the nineteenth century it was very unusual, indeed, to find a single apprentice in many of the large shops. * * *

In the last trade census of Massachusetts it is shown that in none of the building trades were there one-half and in many cases not over one-quarter as many apprentices as union rule allowed. In 1903 one of the delegates to the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Association of Master House Painters and Decorators stated that after a personal investigation among at least 600 master painters he found that not an average of one in fifteen had a single apprentice in his business and that the larger the workshop or business the greater was the dislike of the masters to teaching boys; also in corroboration of all this Professor Thomas Sewall Adams of the University of Wisconsin states that only about one strike in 300 is caused by disputes relating to the apprentice.

This is perhaps the most cheering condition of the connection of organized labor with industrial training, showing, as it does, that the manufacturers who are becoming at last deeply interested in the thorough training of young mechanics have an open opportunity to accomplish their purpose.

This I know—that, whatever their outward expression of opinion may be, there is among union men a deep, underlying feeling that it is better for the embryo mechanic to be trained in the shops and, in a measure, under the influence of the unions than in outside schools of any kind. Whenever they become convinced

of the absolute good faith of the employers who are introducing the new apprentice systems—when they see that the boys are being trained into the very best mechanics they are capable of becoming instead of being used at low wages as producers—then, I believe, the unions will look with full favor upon the shop apprentice, although it may be expected, of course, that they will always attempt to place and enforce restrictions upon the number employed. * * *

The problem of industrial education resolves itself in the minds of trades union men into three distinct methods—the public school manual training, which they view with a more or less friendly and tolerant feeling; the commercial trade school, against which they are extremely bitter, and the four year apprentice systems of the great corporations, to which they seem to object on general principles. It appears, however, that the objection to the latter is based upon past experience with apprentices who were really cheap producers rather than upon any clear understanding and appreciation of the present fine systems.

The whole situation is further complicated by the charge that the unions hamper shop apprentice systems by severe restrictions placed upon the number of apprentices to be allowed in any one shop. This is denied by the union leaders, who emphatically assert that in almost every trade the number of apprentices does not nearly reach the number permitted by the union rules. And their assertion seems to be borne out by some surprising and quite authentic figures.

The United States census of 1900 shows that the percentage of apprentices to mechanics was but 2.45, while the strictest union allows 7 per cent; many allow 12 per cent. Again, the report of the Massachusetts commissioner of labor for 1906 shows that the percentage of apprentices in open shops in that State was no greater than in the union shops.

A thorough investigation made at the instance of the American Social Science association showed that, out of forty-eight trades unions having a membership of 500,000, twenty-eight, with 220,000 members, had no restrictions upon apprenticeship. In ten unions, with membership of 197,000 the apprentice limits are fixed at from 7 per cent to 15 per cent. In the other ten the question of apprenticeship was left to the locals.—George F. Stratton in *Engineering Magazine*.

INTIMATE STUDY OF JAPS SHOWS THEM IN BAD LIGHT.

Characterless and Nationally Without Material Resources.

BY E. S. WRIGHT.

TOKYO, Japan, Dec. 2.—While people in the east know Japan for what she is. It is too bad that the great thinking masses of Americans can not see our "little brown brothers" in their native inhabitant. Then most of the sentimental gush and their enchanted and enchanting island would cease.

There is not enough wholesale food grown in the whole of Japan to keep the population of one of our smaller states fed and good-natured.

The idea of calling any nation great which has neither character nor material resources.

The average Japanese is ill clothed as an American Indian; his clothing is no better suited to his rigorous climate than our Indian's clothes are to the American winter. The average Japanese is vain, conceited, and insulting, and cringing also when he is not able to bully. He has the furtive, rat eye of the born spy and uses it on every white man.

He is, since the suppression of the Russian, the greatest "fourflusher" in the world.

He takes the white man's money and calls him "pig" and "dog." He uses unspeakable language toward white women seen on the street and makes gestures and exposures like a savage, not because he does not know better, but to make himself obnoxious.

He is a cheat, be he high or low, a coolie or a samurai. He will sell goods to a native, say, for 7 yen; to a white man, the same for 18 yen.

I entered a store in Yokohama and saw this done:

I was with a German friend who had lived twenty-five years in Yokohama. I bought a piece of silk for 7 yen and saw a piece exactly like it in size, weight and quality sold to an American, just off an American ship, for 18 yen. Even the best hotels have no fixed prices. The uninitiated will pay 12 yen (\$6) for a room which the Jap will give to the next comer, who knows how to bargain, for 6 yen.

A rickshaw man whose legal rate is 30 sen per hour will exact 60 and make a horrible row if he thinks you do not know the rates.

A guide will fill you full of fairy tales till called down by the prosaic but more accurate guide book.

The diplomat lies, and every member of the foreign legations knows no dependence is to be placed in the fair words of Japanese diplomats.

Hiashi, the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, in discussing possible trouble with the United States, says: "Does Japan want America? Could she take it if she wanted it? To both we can answer, no! Does America want Japan? Could she conquer it? To these questions we answer, no! Then what is there to fight over?"

He finishes with a bland smile and refuses to discuss China, which is the real point at issue. Japan intends soon to control China, to dominate her wholly. America wants the open door. There is the issue. Germany also wants the open door in China, and as an intelligent German naval officer said, "It may fall to Germany to teach Japan her lesson."

Japanese statesmen know that today their nation is bankrupt; they know that if the Russians could have continued the war six months longer Japan would have ceased to exist as a nation. Only lack of money today holds back the Japanese from one of the many overt acts that would force America into war. But her statesmen are at their wits' end to secure a revenue. Much more than the biblical tithe is exacted from all Japanese. The farmer and the shopkeeper suffer worst.

I know an individual case of a rice farmer who cultivates about forty acres, a large farm in Japan. He used to clear about 600 yen per year on this, or 300 gold dollars. Taxes have left him just 100 yen this year. He is on the verge of ruin as a matter of course. Shopkeepers, I am told, have to give virtually half their profits to the state while these war taxes are on.

In spite of these things the great mass of the people believe Japan invincible in war. The government may be forced into it by popular discontent, high taxes, and public clamor.

But Japan has nothing really formidable to present against a foe except a fanatic patriotism like that of the American Indian for his chief or the medieval serf for the feudal baron.

Contrary to popular belief, the physical condition of the Jap is low. He can not withstand shock and surgical operations like the white man.

His medical knowledge is all second-hand, his boasted Tokyo imperial hospital compares favorably with an American field hospital; no more. For further particulars see United States government medical reports, which insist that American hospitals and American medical practice has nothing to learn from the Japanese.

There is a popular error that the Japanese can build ships. They can not, at least they do not, though every now and then you hear a great hurrah about another Japanese battleship launched in the presence of his Imperial Highnesses So-and-So in silk hats, frock coats, and probably tan shoes and pink bow ties.

The Japanese out of their own material are now able to build pretty good wooden junks, tampons and iron vessels about the size of sea-going tugs whose models approach that of a tin pot.

Great mystery attaches to the ship yards of Japan. It is easier for a foreigner to go through the eye of a needle than to enter the guarded gate of a ship yard.

Yet the mystery can be solved. Japan has no ship yards, properly speaking. She has well guarded inclosures where pieces of a ship are assembled.

Japan today does not make a pound of ship iron, no angle irons, no ribs, no armor plate, no steel sheathing, nothing but the wooden cabinet work for the interior of a ship.

Japanese steel ships, merchant or war vessels, are made from keelson to main truck in England. Japs put these together, sometimes wrongly, with a great hurrah, as boys build houses of numbered blocks.

Japs no more build ships than boys build houses out of blocks, and they can not even put the pieces together correctly without the aid of an European superintendent. They do not build marine engines, they make no guns. All these beyond the most trifling sizes come from England and Germany. Japan in time of war could neither build nor equip a ship of war.

The sooner the United States learns that a big navy is the best guaranty of peace in the orient the better it will be. If Uncle Sam had had an adequate fleet in the Pacific at the time the so-called San Francisco outrages occurred, there would not have been a peep from our dear "little brown brothers," whom we so generously helped to their present conspicuous position by contraband of war and an ocean of sentimental gush on which it was carried to them.

UNIONISTS MAKE STRIKE-BREAKERS PAY.

BY JOSEPH R. BUCHANAN.

Local Union, No. 23, Commercial Telegraphers' Union, of Kansas City, adopted a novel scheme for making deserters refund the money they received before becoming strike-breakers, as strike relief. The idea originated with George Schmelzer, a member of No. 23; but, as he has not applied for a patent, other unions are permitted to use it, and some of them probably will do so.

At Mr. Schmelzer's suggestion, when the strike began, members receiving financial aid from the relief committee were required to sign a promissory note payable at a specified time. Of course the intention was to destroy the notes of all those who remained loyal to the union as soon as the strike was either settled or declared off.

A few weeks before the termination of the strike desertions from the ranks of the union began, and continued until fifteen who had been union operators had returned to work upon the companies'

terms. Then the committee called in Thomas W. L. McGuire, an attorney, who, before his admission to the bar, was an active member of the Electrical Workers' Union.

Without delay McGuire began action on the notes of the fifteen deserters, who had received money donated by other union men. Of course, the men sued were greatly shocked by the unexpected course of the union; but they had to pay up. In most cases the money was collected through garnishee proceedings. The total amount recovered by the union was over \$300.

The union men of Kansas City say the scheme worked by the telegraphers was the "best ever," and other organizations of that city will adopt it. Attorney McGuire placed the plan before the Kansas City Electrical Workers' Union, which has a strike on its hands, and it was adopted and immediately put into operation.—New York Evening Journal, Dec. 31, 1907.

"AARON'S ROD," OR GOVERNMENT BY FEDERAL JUDGES.

BY HON. WALTER CLARK, LL. D., CHIEF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Next to the abuse of the injunction process perhaps the most insidious and dangerous of the many methods of attack upon trades unions is that of discouraging our efforts in the political field by inducing the courts to set aside the few laws enacted in the interests of the workers by declaring them unconstitutional. The employers fear the entrance of the laborers into the political field and are doing their utmost to delay the inevitable.

The first steps to be taken to offset these attacks through the courts are outlined in the following excerpts from an article which recently appeared in *The Arena*; although permanent relief will only be obtained if, when the constitution has been so amended that all judges must be elected, we take an active part in the selection of candidates for the bench. By all means make these positions elective and to be held only during good behavior, then let us see to it that the nominations are not controlled by the money interests, even though to prevent it we be compelled to break the fetters of party bondage and enter the political field as an independent party. Judge Clark says:

"The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was passed solely for the protection of the then lately emancipated colored people. But it is certain that it is not being used for the only purpose for which its adoption was avowedly urged. It is equally certain that it has been seized upon by plutocratic and capitalistic combinations as a means through which to nullify all legislative or congressional action that is not to their liking. Adopted for the protection of the negro, it has become the asylum of the millionaire.

"This has been easy work. The Federal Judges are not elective. The popular will has not only no choice in their selection, but as their tenure is for life, popular sentiment, however just or strong, or however indignant under just provocation is no check upon their conduct. Of the 113 United States judges, there are very few, who were not corporation lawyers before appointment. There are still fewer who do not owe their appointment to trust or corporation influences, vigorously exerted in their behalf. There is not one whose appointment would have been confirmed by the plutocratic Senate, if confirmation had been opposed by the capitalistic combinations to whom a majority of the Senators owe their seats.

"Thus selected, thus confirmed and thus holding the Federal judiciary is the ideal instrument of government for the pluto-

cracy. The powers assumed (without any provision of the Constitution to authorize it and indeed despite the fact that the motion to insert it was four times voted down by the Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia in 1787) to declare any legislation unconstitutional gave the judiciary the power, and the Fourteenth Amendment, by a process of misconstruction, has given the judges the occasion for the exercise of absolute and arbitrary power.

"The Fourteenth Amendment made the colored people 'citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.' It then adds: 'No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.' The colored people, for the protection of whose rights the amendment was passed, have ceased to be regarded. The words 'citizens of the United States' as now construed in practice mean any 'railroad or other corporation.' The words 'due process of law' have been construed to embrace anything and everything, at the will of the judge.

"Given a judiciary mostly recruited from the ranks of corporation lawyers and unable to put off the preconceived opinions and bias received in years of contests at the bar; removed from respect for popular judgment of their conduct, however arbitrary, by the most undemocratic provision of life tenure, armed with the self assumed power of setting aside any legislation, whether State or Federal, as unconstitutional (of which they are sole judges); and of holding, at their irresponsible will and pleasure anything that displeases them to be 'not due process of law,' the result is that the Federal Judges possess an irresponsible, unlimited and arbitrary power greater than any to which Plantagenet, Tudor or Stuart ever aspired.

"Under skillful manipulation the Fourteenth Amendment has become like 'Aaron's Rod' that swallowed all the other rods. Under the construction of the Federal Judges, the Fourteenth Amendment effectually repeals both the Tenth Amendment and the Eleventh,—indeed, it reverses and reduces to naught all the other provisions of the Constitution which made that instrument one of granted powers and reserved all other powers to the States or the people thereof.

"If the Federal judiciary can, at will, hold any act of any State Legislature, or

of Congress, to be 'not due process of law' and therefore unconstitutional, or can, as a Federal Judge in North Carolina has done, enjoin the people of the State and its officials from putting in force a statute, which the judge has not even taken the time or the trouble to declare unconstitutional—in short, forbid them to even think about the matter until he shall have hought it over and settled it,—and then we have found the pou sto of the old Greek, the ultimate source of all political power.

"In the great case of *McCullough v. Maryland*, Chief Justice Marshall said: 'This government is acknowledged by all to be one of enumerated powers. The principle that it can exercise only the powers granted to it would seem too apparent to have required to be enforced by all those arguments which its enlightened friends, while it was depending before the people, found it necessary to urge. That principle is now universally admitted.'

"The sphere of the Federal Government and its limits have been settled and marked out by Judge Marshall as above quoted. George Washington in his Farewell Address thus said: 'If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the mode which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for, though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.'

"It must be remembered that all the Federal Courts below the Supreme Court are created and their powers are conferred, by Congress, which can restrict or withdraw their powers and even abolish such courts and establish others at will. Indeed, in 1802 Congress did abolish sixteen Circuit Courts. And since that time it has abolished two District Courts. While the Supreme Court is created by the Constitution, with specified powers the Constitution adds, 'with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.' Those regulations Congress prescribed in

the Judiciary Act of 1789, which Congress has amended often since. It has also increased or diminished the number of Supreme Court Judges at will.

"The remedy is therefore (1) that Congress should take from the subordinate Federal Judges the power to grant injunctions whose effect will be to suspend any act of a State Legislature or Congress. If any act is unconstitutional, let that be pleaded in the State court, with the right to review by writ of error in the United States Supreme Court. That was the time-honored and exclusive way till these later days. (2) The number of Federal District Judges and Circuit Judges should be diminished. New districts are made to furnish high salaries to politicians who cannot command popular approval. (3) The best remedy is to put the axe to the root of the tree by a constitutional amendment, or by a constitutional convention, which shall make all Federal Judges elective for a term of years,—six, eight or ten years. The District Judges could be chosen by the qualified voters in the respective districts. The Circuit Judges could be chosen in like manner in each circuit. The union could be divided into nine divisions, for each of which a Supreme Court Judge should be chosen, and the nine Judges thus elected could choose one of their number Chief Justice.

"At present the supreme power is not in the hands of the people but in the power of the Judges, who can set aside at will any expression of the people's will made through an act of Congress or a State Legislature. These judges are not chosen by the people, nor subject to review by them. This is arbitrary power and the corporations have taken possession of it simply by naming a majority of the judges. Congress can curb this by restricting their powers and abolishing some of the districts. But the only root and branch remedy is in the hands of the people, by amending the Constitution as to the method of electing judges and abolishing the thoroughly undemocratic and dangerous life tenure.

"The remedy is with the people themselves. I hold with that grand old patriot, James Hunter, who, after the battle of the Alamo was lost, declared, 'I believe that the people are as much master now as ever.'"

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF A PANIC?

BY W. E. ACKER.

What is the cause of a panic? The practical men of our time discovered that it was over-production and set about regulating matters, and said no longer would they over-produce. Therefore panics would be no more. Then they

told us about the full dinner pail and the unending years of prosperity that would be meted out to the workers if they would only vote as these practical men desired. They rated the people as being equal, but not superior to the dumb

brutes of creation, for every farmer assures a full dinner pail to his horses, cattle, hogs and chickens. Practical men rate you inferior to the dumb brutes; if they did not they would promise you more than is allotted to your four-footed dependents.

What is the cause of this panic six years ahead of time? The machinery must be out of gear. We should have some practical machinists on the job. I believe they could fix up the machine by first putting it in the scrap heap, and then building a new machine, in which all the people would take a hand in running it for all the people. And who are the people? Why, the people are those who produce all the wealth. But it is not the workers that produce panics. No, but it is through the manipulations of the wealth produced by the workers it passes unto the hands of our great financiers who juggle with stocks, bonds, etc., gambling with the moneys that rightfully belong to the working class; that is, wages withheld so to speak. Labor creates all wealth, and all wealth should therefore belong to and be retained by labor.

The banks at present are doing their best to keep the machinery going; profit and interest must be continued. There is not enough money to do business with; everybody who has money is hoarding it. The banks are in great straits. You can deposit your money, but you cannot take any out of the banks; the money is needed to send East to help out the gamb-

lers in Wall Street. The banks got wise to their interests, proposed to issue clearing house checks and script, thereby driving the good money further into hiding, for when two kinds of money are circulating in the same society the poorer money will always drive out the better.

Wages will be fixed by script, prices on commodities will be fixed in currency. Finally the heaviest burden will be on the wage-earner. We, the workers, did not bring on the panic, but we as workers will have to suffer because of it. Is there not something wrong with our methods of conducting the affairs of society? Can we not, as workers, apply a remedy for the future so that there will be no more of these enforced vacations of the workers who are always dependents on a master class for a job? Why can we not own our jobs? Is it because we are not wise enough? Are we too ignorant to manage our own affairs? No, but a majority of the people as yet will have to be educated and get a few wise ideas in their heads; otherwise they get it in the neck.

One great and wise thing that if brought about at this time would give society great relief, and that is to enact a national eight-hour work day. Such a measure should be passed by Congress. Agitation for the shorter work day should be started at once and kept up by all workers, for to shorten the day increases the pay.

WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR.

SEATTLE, WASH., Jan. 16, 1908.

To Organized Labor of the United States and Canada, Greeting—

Dear Sirs and Brothers: On Saturday, January 4th, we wired President Gompers to the effect that the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Commission had treated Organized Labor unfairly; that carpenters were cut \$1.40 per day, laborers from \$2.25 to \$1.75, and board raised from \$5.00 to \$6.00 per week at the contractors' boarding camp.

This fair has for eighteen months been looked forward to by all the people of the Northwest as a grand project and one which Organized Labor could well afford to boost; everything looked favorable for an exposition which would be carried through without industrial strife. All went well until the completion of the administration building; although there had been no precaution used in the contract a union man was awarded the contract for that building. The Union men who had served as a committee to have

the fair built and operated by Union help of organized crafts had taken time and spent considerable money in order to see that no stone be left unturned to secure the desired result—a fair Fair.

In order to fully explain the part Organized Labor took in their efforts to gain the above end it will be necessary to go into a little history of the work of the committee of fourteen—seven from the Central Labor Council and seven from the Building Trades Assembly, the Building Trades Section of the Central Labor Council. This committee was first appointed on June 15th, 1906, and worked from then till November 10th, holding weekly meetings, conferences being held on many occasions with the Exposition management.

The Exposition management, while not willing to sign a contract, did state that they wished the fair to progress without industrial strife, and individual members expressed themselves as favorable to Organized Labor, stating that they could

not see how it could be built without it. This was prior to the date of stock subscriptions. Our committee had a plan matured whereby Organized Labor was to take \$25,000 worth of stock, but when the day came, the full \$500,000 was subscribed and fully \$120,000 more without our \$25,000. The Commission was again asked to agree to run a Union Exposition throughout and we asked them to send a copy of the following letter out with their advertising matter:

"The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Committee desires to have all buildings constructed on the grounds progress in a satisfactory manner, and we have used the precaution of entering into an agreement with the several labor organizations of the City of Seattle and vicinity whereby they have agreed to furnish sufficient help, skilled and unskilled. We recognize the fact that such an agreement has practically insured industrial peace, and guarantees that no strikes or other labor troubles will delay the construction work or interfere in any way with the management of the fair; therefore, we recommend to any prospective concessionists or states, nations, corporations or individuals that a Union clause be inserted in their contracts, so that the men and women who have agreed to continue work without cessation for any cause will be able to carry out their part of the agreement, and they will undoubtedly aid very materially in making this affair a success."

Among the clauses in the proposed agreement was the following:

"That any foreign country wishing to erect buildings or exhibits by 'native labor,' that such buildings would be considered fair; and, further, that state buildings over which the Commission had no control would not be considered as unfair so far as construction on other work on the ground was concerned; provided the recommendation or letter above referred to was sent out as requested."

We guaranteed the Commission to furnish sufficient competent help and that there would be no cessation of work for any cause. If any jurisdiction trouble should arise we provided for a settlement within the Unions, without delay of work that any difficulties which might arise would be settled by arbitration, thus guaranteeing no cessation of work. Yet the Commission refused to enter into any agreement—they had sufficient funds to run the fair they thought and they did not even need our money.

We claim that we have done our part and that the Exposition management has brought this trouble upon themselves. They refer to the Portland "open shop" exposition as a success, the Jamestown "union shop" fair as a rank failure, and their conclusions to the committee were:

"This is public money and something for the benefit of the entire public, and we will not enter into any agreement or put Union clauses in contracts."

They even refused to protect the present wage scales of the city and prevent reductions by inserting a Union clause.

All the machinery of Organized Labor in the State was used; first the Carpenters' Union; then the Building Trades Assembly; later the Central Labor Council, and last the State Federation of Labor, but with no avail. The Exposition has been placed upon the unfair list by all the above mentioned organizations of labor, and it is requested that all of Organized Labor, their friends and sympathizers in the United States and Canada, do their part to see that no further money is appropriated unless the Fair Commission agrees to treat with labor fairly, thereby ceasing its fight on Organized Labor in the Northwest.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Federation after due investigation by a committee of seven—one from each of the principal cities in the State:

Whereas, Organized Labor of Seattle, through its Central Labor Council, has placed the A.-Y.-P. Fair on the unfair list; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Washington State Federation of Labor, in regular convention, assembled, at Tacoma, Washington, this 9th day of January, 1908, that we concur in the action of the Central Labor Council of the City of Seattle, and that this Federation through its regular officers, Executive Board and other such means, that it may have and control, spread this action broadcast throughout the land, and request the co-operation of the American Federation of Labor and National assistance be withheld from this exposition until Organized Labor, in each and every one of its affiliations of Unions, are accorded their just and equitable demands by the A.-Y.-P. Exposition, with the proper assurance that all agreements that may be made with Organized Labor will be held inviolate; and be it further

Resolved, That this Federation use every means in its power to spread the news of this action to every part of the United States, and other countries, admonishing all people to remain away from this Exposition until such time as Organized Labor notify them of an amicable settlement of all difficulties.

Thanking you for your assistance in this matter to the end that Organized Labor in the Northwest will receive just recognition, we are fraternally yours,

WASHINGTON STATE FED-
ERATION OF LABOR.

FRANK W. COTTERILL, Pres.
GEORGE HUMPHREY, Sec.

APPEALS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

	King.....	McLaughlin.....	Godshall.....	O'Connor.....	Fitzgerald.....	Graham.....	Scott.....
Appeal L. U. 98 for 3 mos. extension of time on payment of p. c. tax.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appeal L. U. 124 Kansas City for remission p. c. tax Nov.-Dec. '07—Jan. '08.....	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Appeal L. U. No. 5 for remission Jan-Apr. '08 inc.....	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Appeal L. U. No. 14 remission p. c. tax indef. period.....	3mo	3mo	3mo	6mo		3mo	4mo
Appeal 350 Hannibal, Mo., remission p. c. Apr. '07 inc. Nov. '07.....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Appeal L. U. 157 death claim of F. Brinley	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Appeal L. U. 317 Portland, Ore., for remission p. c. Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 1907.....	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
G. P. Prop. No. 1—"Are you in favor of G. P. remaining in G. O. excepting in case of emergency".....	No	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
G. P. Prop. No. 2—Do you favor the G. P. employing a Secretary and continuing to assist the G. V. P.'s on the road.....	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

SUPREME COURT GOVERNMENT.

BY PROF. FRANKLIN H. GIDDING S, OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.
(Address delivered before the Economic Club of Boston.)

IT WAS a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States who, in a public address, remarked: "This country is full of constitutional lawyers just now. Words and phrases are given more elasticity than rubber, and so stretched as to include everything which an excitable people clamor for."

We must regret that Mr. Justice Brewer did not add to this information a specific statement as to whether, in his judgment, at least five of the nine honorable justices of the Supreme Court may always be discovered and counted among these constitutional lawyers, by whom words and phrases "are given more elasticity than rubber." There is a prevalent notion in the mind of the American people that such is, indeed, the fact.

Of this at least we may rest assured, that neither Mr. Justice Brewer nor any other of his honorable colleagues would allege that the Supreme Court since the

civil war has uniformly regarded the letter of our written constitution as an inelastic quantity. Not one of them venture to claim that the court has undeviatingly upheld the principle laid down by Chief Justice Marshall, that "the intelligent men who framed our constitution and the people who adopted it, must have understood and employed words in their natural sense and to have intended what was said."

Any such contention would open the way to a series of questions too embarrassing for any tribunal whatsoever to answer it would compel the intelligent skeptic to inquire how, then, it happened that at one time the Supreme Court assured us that Congress had power to create a legal tender paper money, and at another time assured us that any exercise of such power was in violation of constitutional law; or how it could happen that an income tax could be constitutional at one period

in our history, and by the easy device of a technical playing upon a few words and phrases in no way vital to the plain intent of the congressional statute, could be made unconstitutional at a later period. It would compel our skeptic further to ask how does it happen that, if words and phrases are held to be inelastic and unmistakable, our constitutional law so frequently in the judgment of five justices prescribes one thing, while in the judgment of the four other justices it prescribes a diametrically opposite thing.

It is useless to press this point. The quite obvious and undenied fact is that the Supreme Court has the power to assume that the words of the constitution are inelastic, or to assume at discretion that they are more elastic than rubber—nay, than heated air—and, according as it adopts the one attitude or the other, it leaves the constitution as it was made by the convention and by the people in the exercise of their constitution-amending power, or it creates a totally different constitution, and thereby a totally different set of practical consequences from those that could come into existence under a strict construction.

In a word, stripping the question of technicalities, it seems to the lay mind entirely certain that when the Supreme Court, under the leadership of Marshall, logically assumed authority to declare an enactment of Congress unconstitutional, it did inevitably by implication assume authority to *recreate the constitution for practical purposes*. Whether or not it has already exercised such authority and power I leave to others to discuss, and, if possible, to decide. My purpose is merely to raise the question whether it is consistent with any plan of government by the people, for the people, that the actual constitutional system, to which legislation and administration must accommodate themselves, should, for all practical purposes, be created by a tribunal of nine elderly gentlemen, holding office for life.

This question is not now raised for the first time in the history of constitutional government. It was raised in those critical days for English liberty when Coke, on the one hand, and Lord Bacon, on the other hand, contended for and against the authority of the judges to be final arbiters of constitutional law. The story of this struggle, as told by Gardiner in the third volume of his monumental history, is one of the most significant chapters in the great drama of the rise of the English people as a self-governing commonwealth.

Bacon contended that lawyers, like clergymen, with their passion for logical refinement and their lack of personal experience of the everyday life of men, are not the proper stuff of which to make

broad-minded statesmen. Be this as it may, Bacon carried his point against Coke. The legislative branch of the government, instead of the judicial, was made in England the dominant power. The consequences are familiar to all. The British Parliament is the legal sovereign in the United Kingdom. The people can there express their will with a directness which in America is altogether impossible. In actual practice the legislative body has become a sober and responsible body, and for the all-sufficient reason that the necessity of assuming responsibility creates the sense of responsibility as a habit of the human mind.

This elementary and well-demonstrated moral fact is a sufficient reply to those who say that, while we do indeed desire and believe in government by the people, we should guard against popular clamor and mob action, as zealously as we guard against despotism. But there is another answer also, which in its turn is sufficient and conclusive. Popular government should be, in the long run it must be, an expression of the sober second thought. But it must be the sober second thought *of the people themselves*. The thought of nine justices, whether it be first thought or second thought or third thought, is no more popular government than is the ukase of the czar of the Russians.

The constitution provides for amendment by the people acting through Congress and the state legislatures in a prescribed way, or through a constitutional convention. It does not provide for overt and formal amendment by the Supreme Court. Powers not granted to the federal government are, as the letter of the constitution says, reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

How, then, has it happened that as a matter of practical fact the powers not delegated to the federal government, including the power to amend the constitution, have come more and more to be exercised *in effect*, although, of course, never openly and confessedly by the federal Supreme Court?

The answer, I think, is this: No nation on earth can go on forever living according to the letter of a scheme of government laid down for it by its ancestors. In a thousand ways the conditions of existence change, and life is a never ceasing adjustment of the organism to its environment. A living nation expands. Its industries multiply. Its commerce goes forth to the ends of the earth. Its wealth increases. Its population multiplies from generation to generation and becomes more complex in its ethnic composition. The structure of society becomes differentiated. Conflicting class interests arise, and a myriad of questions of public policy spring forth of

which the fathers in their day and generation never so much as dreamed.

The United States has been no exception to this law of growth. Nay, more than any other nation of which history has made record, it has exemplified it. And yet, with a reverence for the past well-nigh unexampled, it has attempted to limit its own freedom of political and legal action by the letter of a written constitution, drafted for it by men who never in their wildest imagination foresaw a locomotive or a steamship to say nothing of an electric dynamo or a wireless message across the seas. Only twice have the people exercised their constitution-amending power.

Herein, I think, lies the true cause of conditions which I can but regard as unfortunate. It has been impossible for this nation to live and to grow within the strict letter of the federal constitution as it stands written today. Therefore, since the people have neither adequately amended their constitution, nor been able to live within its provisions, the justices of the Supreme Court have had opportunity to make the phrases of our fundamental law "more elastic than rubber," that the people might find room within them for mere civilized existence.

What is more, as time goes on this process may be carried far beyond any former or present experimenting. We are but at the beginning of those developments of our national life which will call for far-reaching changes of public policy. It will not do to forget that that theory of government which assumes that the functions of government should be few, simple and strictly hedged about with safeguards against precipitate action, grew up in days when the relations between the government and the individual were themselves simple and relatively few.

Political society in those days consisted of the government and natural individuals. Economic society consisted of individuals making contracts one with another, and of simple business partnerships. Economic society of today consists chiefly of gigantic artificial beings the corporations, juristic personalities, having many of the rights and some of the obligations of natural individuals. These legal beings have been created by the state, and it is utterly, it is appallingly, preposterous to extend to them that theory and practice of government which rests on the assumption that governments should interfere as little as possible in the affairs of natural individuals.

That theory is sound. The democracy that ignores it, or contends against it, is destined to fail. We have in fact in our land disregarded it already and alto-

gether too far. Our state governments, in particular, have gone to an absurd length in their paternalistic control of the private conduct of natural individuals. But while thus exercising an unwise authority over adult individual life, they have neglected much too long to take up and responsibly discharge their obvious duty of prescribing and controlling the conduct of their own begotten children—the vast business corporations.

There is, I believe, but one way out of our difficulties. It consists in frankly recognizing the fact that we must make our constitutional frame of government flexible and adaptable to changing conditions; and if we are to be indeed a democratic people, the *alterations in the fundamental law must be made by the people themselves*, and not by their judges.

I am in entire sympathy with those who hold that loose constructions of the constitution are bad constitutional law. I believe that Senator Knox and Mr. Justice Brewer have been entirely right in their contention that the only constitutional way in which the power reserved to the people can be exercised by the people, is through the process of constitutional amendment.

The process of amendment, however, as all our experience has shown, is extremely difficult, and apparently it is only under an extraordinary pressure of events that it can be achieved. Here, then, is a problem to exercise the profoundest thought of the most gifted of our broadest minded statesmen. The obvious and the imperative need arising out of our irresistible national development is of one constitutional amendment which shall make the process of amendment itself henceforth for simpler, far easier to achieve than it now is. If we fail to obtain it, one of two consequences must, as I believe, inevitably follow. Either, adhering to a strict construction, we shall so paralyze the arm of government to deal with new developments of our national life that we shall be unable to resist a lawless kind of business activity, and the consequences will be economically, morally, and politically disastrous; or, we shall depart farther and farther from the rule of strict construction, until our constitution has ceased to bear even a semblance of the scheme of law and government created in 1788, and we shall have whatever body of constitutional law approves itself to the minds of the small group of justices constituting the Supreme Court of the United States.

When either of these things has happened, it will be logically in order to ask whether we are still a democratic people; but it may also, perchance, have become impertinent then to put the question and *lese majeste* to debate it.

Agreement Between the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers, Brass Moulders, Brass and Silver Workers of North America And the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

NORFOLK, VA., November 20, 1907.

AGREEMENT entered into by and between the METAL POLISHERS, BUFFERS, PLATERS, BRASS MOULDERS, BRASS AND SILVER WORKERS of North America, and the INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS for the purpose of assisting and strengthening each other in any attempt on the part of our employers to take away any working conditions that prevail at this time and to assist each other to secure better conditions whenever the opportune time presents itself.

That the I. B. E. W. concedes that the manufacturing of illuminating fixtures up to, and including, plating or lacquering properly comes under the jurisdiction of the M. P. B. P. B. M. B. and S. W. U. of N. A. The M. P. B. P. B. M. B. and S. W. U. of N. A. concedes that the wiring, assembling and hanging of illuminating fixtures properly comes under the jurisdiction of the INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS and both organizations hereto agree not to allow its members to infringe upon the jurisdiction rights of each other.

That all members of either organization, parties to this agreement, who may be at present working on the work conceded to the other party by this agreement shall transfer his membership to the organization to which he properly belongs on the lowest possible initiation fee of the Local Union to which he ap-

plies for membership in accordance with its By-Laws within sixty days after ratification of this agreement. The maximum initiation fee not to be over five dollars (\$5.00).

That each organization shall upon the ratification of this agreement send an official letter to their respective Local Unions embodying a copy of this agreement with instructions that it must be strictly adhered to, and that the Local Executive Boards of the Local Unions in various cities within the jurisdiction of the parties hereto shall meet whenever a difficulty is anticipated by either.

In cities where the I. B. E. W. has no Local Organization, the members of the M. P. B. P. B. M. B. and S. W. U. of N. A., who are permanently employed in the manufacturing and hanging of illuminating fixtures shall be privileged to continue the same until such time as a Local of the I. B. E. W. is established.

M. P. B. P. B. M.
B. and S. W. U. of
N. A.—

Signed,
A. B. GROUT,
GEO. LEARY,
JAS. J. DARDIS.

I. B. E. W.—

Signed,
F. J. McNULTY,
S. J. FAX,
W. E. KENNEDY.

Agreement Between The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 25, 1907.

Agreement entered into this 25th day of September, 1907, by and between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, for the purpose of eliminating any and all differences that exist between both organizations over jurisdiction of work.

Sec. 1. All general construction work in new theatres and amusement parks shall be done by members of the I. B. E. W., and all new and general repair work during the closed season shall be done by members of the I. B. E. W. All work done on the stage shall be done by the electrician of either organization at the discretion of the employer.

Sec. 2. That all electrical work necessary for the production of shows in all legitimate theatres, and the operation and maintenance of same shall be done by members of the I. A. T. S. E.

Sec. 3. That all electricians admitted to membership in the I. A. T. S. E. shall be members of the I. B. E. W. in good standing and shall be compelled to retain such membership. This is not to include apprentices of the I. A. T. S. E. who have served three years, and who have been regularly registered with the local branch of the I. B. E. W.

Sec. 4. Whenever the electricians of the I. A. T. S. E. require extra men to operate electric calcium lamps or other electrical devices, members of the I. B. E.

W. must be employed to operate same, and no one not connected with the electrical department of either organization shall be allowed to operate lamps or other electrical devices.

Sec. 5. Whenever any member of either organization, parties to this agreement does work properly belonging to the jurisdiction of the other it shall be mandatory on the part of the organization of which he is a member to fine him \$25.00 for the first offense, said fine to be paid to the offended International Union, and suspend him for the second offense. Any member suspended under this section cannot be reinstated without the consent of the offended International Union.

Sec. 6. In all amusement parks electricians of the I. A. T. S. E. shall operate all switchboards for the production of shows, and members of the electrical department of the I. A. T. S. E. shall operate all electrical devices on the stage.

Electricians of the I. B. E. W. shall operate all other electrical devices and do all maintenance work in said parks.

Sec. 7. In amusement parks where it is not practical for the employer to employ more than one man for to operate the switchboard and do the general electrical work therein the employer can employ an electrician of either organization therefor.

Sec. 8. That all theatrical Electricians, Electric, Calcium Lamp Picture, and Projecting Machine operators shall be members of the I. A. T. S. E. in accordance with the laws of that organization.

This is not to interfere with Section 3 of this agreement.

Sec. 9. That the I. B. of E. W. shall in no case interfere with the rules laid down to govern the men referred to above or the wage scale set for them by the I. A. T. S. E.

Sec. 10. Upon written request of either organization to this agreement the General Officers shall notify the Executive Boards of both local branches to meet

within ten days to take up and dispose of the business for which the meeting is called, in the event of a disagreement the subject matter shall be referred to the International Officers for adjustment, and to be disposed of at the earliest possible reasonable date.

Sec. 11. Should any lockout or strike be ordered by or against the I. A. T. S. E. the management of same shall be left entirely in the hands of that organization, and all possible moral and financial aid shall be rendered by the local branch of the I. B. of E. W. to bring it to a successful end.

Sec. 12. It is hereby understood that in the event of this agreement expiring for any reason whatsoever nothing herein shall be construed to change the jurisdiction of either organization as defined in the resolution adopted by the A. F. of L.

Sec. 13. None of the articles of this agreement shall be construed to apply to any Picture or Projecting Machine Operator of the store show variety.

Sec. 14. Two International Officers of both International Unions shall meet once a year to either readopt or amend this agreement in accordance with existing conditions confronting them.

For the I. B. E. W.—

Signed,

JACOB SOLOMON,

ALBERT K. ATHERTON,

F. J. McNULTY, Grand President,
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers.

For the I. A. T. S. E.—

Signed,

JOHN G. SKINNER, First Vice Pres.,

W. D. LANG,

LEE M. HART, Gen'l Sec.-Treas.,
International Alliance of The-
atrical Stage Employes.

Recommended and approved.

SAM'L GOMPERS, President,
American Federation of Labor.

INTER MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL No. 2 OF THE 3rd DISTRICT.

To the Officers and Members of the I. B. E. W., Greeting.

By the time this article reaches the rank and file, the Electrical Workers of this District will have been on a strike against the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Co., nine months and determined to strike nine months longer, if properly supported, and it is necessary to do so to get an honorable settlement with the Bell Co. The successful issue of this strike against the Bell Co., means more to the Brotherhood west of the Mississippi river than any previous trouble. It is the first really serious strike in

this District, and considering the obstacles, such as the financial crisis, the injunction granted by the Federal Court and the black list, the Brothers are making one of the cleanest fights as well as the hardest in the history of the Brotherhood, only losing eight members in the four states since the inception of the strike, May 21st, 1907. There has been six members of organized labor in Montana, cited for contempt of Court, and five of them given jail sentences. Four of them were sentenced to three months, one to four months and in addition two of them were fined \$100.00 and

\$200.00 respectively. One brother was discharged. The Brother that received a sentence of three months and a fine of \$100.00 was as innocent of the charge "deporting scabs" as our G. P. who was somewhere in the East at the time. G. V. P., M. J. Sullivan has been almost constantly on the ground since July 11th and everything has been done that could be to bring about an amicable adjustment of the trouble.

With a damage suit of the Bell Co., against the Montana Federation of Labor and Affiliated Unions for \$75,000.00 it looks as though ours will be a fight to make history. This Council and Affiliated Unions have spent for benefit and defense purposes approximately \$16,000.00. I have no data to estimate the cost to other organizations, but it has been equally as much if not more than the Electrical Workers.

Different Secretaries of the Locals of this Council have been in receipt of letters of inquiry from all parts of the United States relative to settlement of the strike, stating that articles have appeared in the Newspapers that the strike had been settled, and a number of members have been shipped in the District under that impression. Such statements are paid for at so much per line, and to have them denied it is necessary to pay for the insertion.

I would ask that both inside and outside men keep away from this District as there are a large number of the strikers working in the ditch for \$2.00 per day, others trimming trees, and a very few are curb stoning. The Grand Secretary will be immediately notified when a settlement is reached.

Fraternally yours,

J. R. CURRIE,
P. D. C.

Official Appeal of the Northwestern District Council Number 7 Of the Second District International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers.

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 23, 1908.

To the officers and members of local unions of I. B. E. W., greeting:

You are no doubt in receipt of communication, dated the 28th ultimo, which in itself was self-explanatory in so far as our actual conditions, brought about by no fault of ours, but forced upon us by combined action entered into by the builders exchange, real estate exchange, architects and commercial club. We are forced to believe that the above combination was brought about by the instrumentality of the NATIONAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, whose mouthpiece happens to be WALTER DREW, who was assigned to this city by the above named Association, knowing full well that organized labor was, as they see fit to term it, quite powerful. Upon arriving to our city he proceeded to call meetings of the various interests, with an endeavor to poison the minds of the general public against organized labor.

We desire again to call your attention to the fact that the lockout was made general by the builders exchange on December 14th, and believing at the time that the aforesaid lockout would not be of long duration is why we had not asked you for financial assistance, but the situation has reached such a stage we find it absolutely necessary for us to have funds, thereby enabling us to at least be in a position to take care of our most needy members, realizing as we do, the

actual situation and not being able to further cope with same, owing to the fact that our funds are exhausted, and also that of local union No. 31.

We are now struggling against the so-called open shop, which as a matter of fact is nothing more or less than the non-union shop. Now brothers, as this is our first appeal to you, and that the fight is one forced upon us by the VAN CLEAVE and PARRYITE factions who are broadly known as exterminators of organized labor, therefore we sincerely trust that you may see fit to immediately comply with our appeal by making as liberal a donation as may be consistent with your funds.

Thanking you in advance for what assistance you may render, we assure you that in the future if your local or district may be so unfortunate as to require financial assistance, we do hereby pledge our undivided support.

Again thanking you, we beg leave to remain yours most sincerely and fraternally,

Approved 1-22-08.

FRANK FISHER,
P. D. C. No. 7 2d Dist.

J. P. NOONAN,
G. V. P. 2d Dist.

P. S.—Send all donations to Frank Fisher, care of St. Louis Hotel, Duluth, Minn. and notify W. R. McCollom 101 East Michigan St., Duluth, Minn.

NEWS BULLETIN.

A Criticism of Mr. Hearst's Platform

BY GEORGE H. SHIBLEY.

President National Federation for People's Rule.

AT a meeting of the state committee of the Indiana Independence League, Jan. 10, a letter from Mr. Hearst was read in which he said:

"I send you my conceptions of the plans and principles upon which the Independence League should be organized in the different states and throughout the nation. It seems to me that the new party movement should not be a third party movement for long. I mean by that that if it is properly directed it will soon supplant one of the old parties and become a second party movement, and even become the dominant party of the nation."

In the statement which follows there is no mention of the Initiative, that is, Direct Legislation, and it is supposed that the banks shall continue to issue to the people the paper currency of the country, ship subsidy is advocated, there is opposition to "immediate and radical revision of the tariff," the only reference to government by injunction is a suggestion for "trial by jury in contempt cases;" there is a proposal for national incorporation, and no word against swollen fortunes, nor is there a request for an income tax nor for an inheritance tax.

Such is Mr. Hearst's third-party program. He plans to put up candidates in the close districts and for the presidency, hoping to defeat the nominees who stand for the initiative, and who, if elected, will immediately install the advisory initiative and thereby open the way for direct voting by the people on state and national issues and within two years.

Furthermore, the defeat of these people's rule nominees will prevent repeal of government by injunction, whereas if there are elected they doubtless will repeal it, as has been done in Oklahoma by the pledged members in the constitutional convention. Should congress refuse, however, it can be accomplished through the advisory initiative.

Again, the defeat of the people's rule nominees will prevent the taking down of the tariff-shelter for trusts, and prevent the regulation of railway corporations and other great trusts. But if the people's rule nominees are elected it will result in the abolition of taxation by private corporations.

And the defeat of the people's rule nominees will prevent the levying of an income tax and an inheritance tax, while

ship subsidy will doubtless succeed, centralization of power will continue, and the currency of the country and the use of the government deposits will still be donated to the few who are in power.

It is well known that the leaders whom Mr. Hearst is opposing are heartily pledged to the initiative, also to an immediate and radical taking down of the tariff-shelter for trusts, that they stand for an income tax and an inheritance tax, against government by injunction, against ship subsidy, against centralization of political power, and against bank currency—the exact opposite of Mr. Hearst's position.

In these things Mr. Hearst is squarely in line with the reactionary republican leaders, and as he considers the measures vital and his personal vanity is great, he proposes to put up candidates so as to draw votes from the people's rule nominees and elect their opponents. Mr. Hearst plans to go before the people and talk against both the republican and democratic nominees yet help to elect the ones who oppose direct legislation.

But Mr. Hearst the reactionary, will have a far different experience from Mr. Hearst the people's champion. He used to lead them, now they will revile him. A traitor is the most detestable of all human beings.

To realize something of the full meaning of Mr. Hearst's apostasy one should estimate the immediate and the more remote results.

It has greatly strengthened the reactionary forces, both within the democratic and republican parties. And next May should Mr. Hearst's third party refuse to stand for the initiative one result would be that the Democratic National Convention, when it meets in July, will much more easily keep the initiative from its platform, and also will much more effectually prevent the nomination of an initiative and referendum leader. Mr. Bryan is such a leader, as is well known, and if nominated he will, in answer to questions, pledge that if the people elect him and if congress shall pass a bill for the advisory initiative he will sign it; and the most of the democratic nominees for congress will pledge to pass the bill. Two years ago 203 of the 246 democratic nominees for the national house, in the north, who were questioned by the National Federation for People's Rule, pledged to work and vote for the immedi-

ate establishment of the advisory initiative and advisory referendum. So, also, did many republican nominees. And in the south one-quarter of the democratic nominees, though almost as good as elected, promised to support the program.

Since that time the sentiment for the initiative and referendum principles has, among the people, become practically unanimous, as is evidenced by the vote in Oklahoma, and the letters from Senators Dick and Foraker who only consented because they knew that the initiative and referendum sentiment in Ohio is all-powerful.

But Mr. Hearst still holds out against the initiative sentiment, just as he did when he ran for governor, two years ago. With the other plutocrats he is trying to thwart the people's efforts to regain their sovereignty. But if this shall arouse them and cause a few of the most progressive citizens to more generally question candidates it will be a godsend, instead of a curse. In the north practically all the candidates who are to come before the primaries of the Independence league and democratic party can be pledged or defeated. Many of the republicans can be pledged. In some states all of the republicans can be pledged. For example, the initiative sentiment is all-powerful in Maine, Delaware, Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

Everywhere the progressive leaders are convinced that until the people can directly initiate legislation they cannot secure relief. This is illustrated in every state in the Union and in national affairs. The trusts are in power through the machine-rule system and will continue so until the people can directly initiate bills and vote upon them.

In Oregon where this system has been established a series of reforms has taken place, other initiative petitions are now being circulated. A system for direct nominations has been installed, likewise home rule for cities and towns, the initiative and referendum for local affairs, a

stringent law against discriminations by railways and other corporations, monopolies that were escaping taxation are being taxed, and initiative petitions are being circulated for constitutional amendments for the recall, proportional representation and an equitable taxing system.

The initiative also exists in Oklahoma, Montana, and South Dakota, with a constitutional amendment submitted in Missouri, North Dakota and Maine. In Ohio practically the entire legislature is pledged to submit a constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum.

In Michigan the constitutional convention has voted for the initiative. In corrupt Pennsylvania the last house by unanimous vote passed a bill for the initiative and referendum for cities and boroughs. Even Delaware has established the initiative and referendum in the city of Wilmington. The republican party in Iowa has authorized its cities to use the initiative.

Yet W. R. Hearst refuses to stand for the initiative. Unquestionably he is a reactionary. He now is a side-partner with the plutocracy in both the republican and democratic machines. He has joined forces with them and is fighting any declaration for a restoration of the people's rule.

So extreme a reaction can scarcely be believed, yet it is unquestionably true. His letter contains no mention of the initiative. Following are quotations concerning currency, ship subsidy, etc.

"I am in favor of the government issuing money, but it will have to do it through some sort of a banking medium. The government could issue money through the national banks now established, and that seems to me the best way."

"An immediate and radical revision of the tariff would certainly upset business interests; and probably do more harm than good."

"Moreover, I am much disposed to favor a ship subsidy."

Such are the officially announced views of W. R. Hearst.

UNIONISM IN CANADA.

Gratifying Progress of Labor Movement—In Step With the U. S.

IT has been our purpose to aid and assist to the fullest extent of our movement our Canadian fellow workmen. In the transaction of our affairs we have regarded them as being part and parcel of the American labor movement as much as our movement is part and parcel of theirs. Geographical lines have in no way interfered with

the fullest development of fraternal relations.

Ignorant or prejudiced opposition to the beneficent work of the labor movement finds its counterpart in Canada as it does elsewhere. In Canada an expression of that feeling was illustrated in a bill by Senator McMillan, the purpose of which was to make it a criminal act

for any person not a Canadian or a British subject to "incite workmen to go out on strike in Canada."

Of course it is well known to those who participate in our movement and others who are not hostile that as a matter of fact our unions, our officers and our representatives do not "incite" workmen to go on strike either in the United States or in Canada; that strikes are entered into by workmen of their own volition after they themselves have determined upon that action and when no other recourse is open.

The men of labor in Canada have as much right to conduct their own affairs as have any members of organized labor in the United States. It is not difficult, however, to discern that if such a law as Senator McMillan proposed were possible of enactment any aid which the labor men of Canada might ask of the United States trades unionists to go there and give would be construed as an act to "incite" other workmen in Canada to go out on strike. Organized labor in Canada, true to its own interests and to the welfare of all the people of the Dominion, as well as justice toward the labor movement of the United States, protested so emphatically that Senator McMillan's bill was killed by an overwhelming majority in the senate and hence did not reach the house.

In summing up the situation Secretary Draper of the Dominion trades and labor congress substantially says:

"It is gratifying that the labor movement in Canada keeps pace with the progress being made in the United States. On every hand labor seems to be taking a larger and better view of its rights and responsibilities, with a consequent increase in the number of those who unite in trades unions with their fellow workers for their social and economic betterment. For many years the development of the labor movement in Canada was confined almost entirely to eastern

Canada, but within the last three years the west has sprung to the front, and today no finer example of enthusiastic work for the strengthening of trades unionism can be found from Winnipeg to the Pacific coast. The expansion of the Canadian west and northwest industrially is equalled if not surpassed by the activity and energy displayed by trades unionists in their efforts to consolidate the interests of workmen everywhere.

"The session of the trades and labor congress of Canada in Victoria, B. C., in 1906 gave additional zest to the movement, and the recent session at Winnipeg, Man., cemented for all time the bond of unionism between the workers in the west and those in the east. It is not too much to say that organized labor in Canada has assumed a new dignity, born of the realization of the great work that lies before it, and that the future will see such a development in the organization and labor of Canadian workmen as to justify the best hopes of the present. Nor must it be forgotten that as organization increases the sentiment in favor of international trades unionism grows stronger. Not all the blandishments of capital nor the short-sighted attitude of a few disgruntled workers who clamor for a 'national' organizations will suffice to offset the zealous, indefatigable and untiring efforts of those who believe that the interests of the working people, whether north or south of the line, are identical; that the same foes are to be met with everywhere, that the welfare of the little ones must be guarded and that women workers and men workers must unite on all hands for their mutual benefit and the general uplifting of the common people.

"I am sure that the sentiments here expressed meet with the cordial approval and encouragement of the best men and the best minds of the entire labor movement of the American continent."—From President Gompers' Report.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

January 27, 1908.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Your attention is called to Resolution 137 adopted by the Norfolk Convention of the American Federation of Labor, which reads as follows:

"Whereas, United States Judge Dayton, of the Northern District of West Virginia, has issued a blanket injunction enjoining all the union men and sympathizers from peaceful persuasion or talking to non-union men while at work, as well as prohibiting the labor press from discussing the merits or demerits of his restraining document; and

"Whereas, A citizen and his wife have been sentenced to the workhouse for sixty days for alleged violation of one of said injunctions; and

"Whereas, The said Judge Dayton has issued a restraining order preventing wage earners from organizing or discussing among themselves the advisability of organizing for their mutual protection; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That all National and International organizations which have not already done so, send organizers into the State of West Virginia at once for the purpose of concentrating the forces of the wage earners and centralizing said

forces on the Mine Owners and Manufacturers' Association and all Employers' Associations affiliated therewith, as well as on Judge Dayton, the avowed enemy of organized labor, and his sympathizers for the redemption of free speech, the right to organize and maintain their respective organizations and for the purpose of being allowed to enjoy the rights accorded to all American citizens by our National Constitution."

The need of special work in the State of West Virginia is urgent and pressing. The American Federation of Labor has had a special representative in the field for some time past. Those international unions which have not already done so are urgently requested to place an organizer or organizers at work in that section at the earliest possible moment, to the end that the spirit and letter of the above quoted resolution may be fully carried out. Now, more than ever is it necessary for labor to be organized, united, and federated, so that the interests of all may be protected and promoted. Let it be clearly understood by all that the toilers are not responsible for existing financial difficulties, and will not be made the victims of the attempt at industrial depression; that wage reductions will be resisted by every lawful means at our command and that the reasonable demands which labor makes for Congressional and Legislative relief for the redress of wrongs which are practiced, and to attain the rights to which they are entitled, will go on uninterrupted with greater persistency than ever before.

The Convention having under consideration and discussion the subject mat-

ter of increasing the circulation of the American Federationist, directed that the National and International organizations affiliated, be requested to advise their locals and their subdivisions that each one should send at least one subscription to the American Federationist in order that the organization may keep itself informed as to the general labor movement, its methods, aims, and aspirations.

I trust the above will receive your prompt and earnest consideration and cooperation, to the end that everything within our power may be done to increase the circulation of the American Federationist, especially in view of the bitter attack made upon it, its policy and its officers in their humane work by the National Association of Manufacturers.

The convention also directed that the various trade organizations in New York City, aye, throughout the country, be urged to make strenuous efforts to establish conditions under which every man employed in the building industry will carry a union card. It was further recommended that all organizations represented in amusement enterprises, such as theaters, ec., give special consideration to the possibility of giving aid to the Actors' National Protective Union, in so far as it is practicable and consistent with the interests and laws of the various organizations.

Trusting that all of these matters will receive your very careful consideration, and with kind regards, I am,

Fraternally yours,

SAM'L GOMPERS,

President American Federation of Labor.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 3, SECOND DISTRICT.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 11, 1908.

To the Officers and Members of Local Unions I. B. E. W., Greeting:

You are hereby notified that the Fifth Annual Convention of D. C. No. 3 of the Second District will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, beginning at ten o'clock, A. M., Tuesday, April 14, 1908, at Labor Temple. All Locals are requested to be represented. Each Local in good standing with fifty members or less, is entitled to one Delegate. Locals with seventy-five or more, two Delegates. Any Local in the District not yet affiliated should look up Article 4, Sec. 6, of I. B. E. W. Constitution, and do their full duty if they wish to continue their membership in the Brotherhood.

Delegates are not entitled to a seat in the Convention unless the per capita tax of their Local has been paid in full to March 30, 1908.

Credentials in duplicate are forwarded to all L. U. in District, the original to be

retained by the Delegate elect, and the duplicate forwarded to the Secretary, Box 61, Fort Worth, Texas. Delegates should be selected at least (30) days previous to the Convention, and their names and number of Local they represent be sent to the Secretary of the District immediately after election.

The importance of our District Council and our movement justify us in recommending that you do not allow favoritism to influence you in selecting your delegates. Be fully represented. Be ably represented by your best, most faithful and experienced member.

A duplicate credential must be filed with the Secretary at least one week prior to the Convention.

Fraternally yours,

WALTER M. GRAHAM,

President D. C.,

208 Main ave., San Antonio, Tex.

FRANK SWOR, Sec'y-Treas.,

Box 61, Fort Worth, Tex.

CORRESPONDENCE

San Francisco No. 6.

Having been elected Press Secretary of No. 6, I wish to inform you that we are standing "pat," and fighting like Trojans with increased vigor. This may serve as a good "mental cocktail" for the present, trusting the termination of the conferences now under way may enable me to treat you to something better in my next letter.

The President of the B. T. Co. has been the man who concluded to break No. 6 for daring to demand him to live up to his own-made law. I wish to say that No. 6 is not buried yet, and more than that—is far from dead. It has been said, by many people outside our local, that the President of the B. T. Co., who ran for the office of Mayor of San Francisco, last October, met his Waterloo by his warring on No. 6.

I wish to call the attention of every local and every member of the brotherhood, to look out for all those "Skates" who have joined the Electrical Gorillas here in an endeavor to crush No. 6 and the I. B. E. W. Many of the above mentioned "bunch" are now eastward bound and hope to quietly creep back into their old locals. Now, brothers, *wake up*. I trust there is not a soul in our brotherhood so dead that his pulse will not quicken and his heart beat to the question, "*Where and for whom were you working last summer?*"

The following list is the names of officers of No. 6, elected for the ensuing term: Albert E. Cohn, President; H. H. Davison, Vice President; W. A. Cook, Financial Secretary; M. H. Dodge, Recording Secretary; J. Barnhardt, Treasurer; P. E. Cullinan, Press Secretary; A. E. Feeley and A. W. Nichols, Inspectors; P. Dunn, Foreman; P. J. Brigaerts, J. Poirier and R. Knapp, Trustees; L. M. Antley, Business Agent; S. G. Curtis, F. W. Gallagher and J. Poirier, Auditing Committee; B. G. Christie, W. A. Sterling, S. C. Curtis, P. E. Cullinan, Jack Dodge, C. P. Neideck and Executive Board; D. M. Ashmore, H. H. Davison, P. Dunn, H. J. Lusk and C. B. Phillips, Examination Board.

In conclusion, it is the hope and aim of No. 6 to keep her sister locals posted on the tracing and other important events, as they develop, thus saving many locals applying for the information.

Wishing every local a prosperous and happy New Year, I am,

Fraternally yours,
P. E. CULLINAN,
Press Secretary.

Pueblo No. 12.

As this is my first letter to the WORKER I don't know how it will take in print, but hope to do better in the next. As you have not heard from Local No. 12 in the WORKER for a long time, I hope this will get there in time for the February number.

As for work around here just now there isn't much doing in either line or inside work. At present we have a few brothers out of work.

At our regular meeting held January 3d, the following officers were elected: President, R. E. Eddington; Vice President, Edmond W. Jackson; Financial Secretary, Wm. H. Hort; Recording Secretary, R. J. Moore; Treasurer, J. F. Campbell; First Inspector, F. P. Manly; Second Inspector, L. J. Mackey; Foreman, J. H. Reed; Trustee Eighteen Months, James Bumtry; Trustee Twelve Months, E. W. Jackson; Trustee Six Months, J. H. Reed; Press Secretary, F. P. Manly.

I would like to find out, as would others, if the I. B. E. W. button is registered in the Registered Office of the U. S. Department, so that we could put a stop to those so-called electrical workers that go to a jewelry store and get one for 50 cents or \$1 and wear it and make the public think they are electrical workers, until some one asks them for their due book or traveling card. In the little town out here there are some doing it, as I found on my travels last summer in the State of Colorado. If we could put a fine on them through the courts that will stop them.

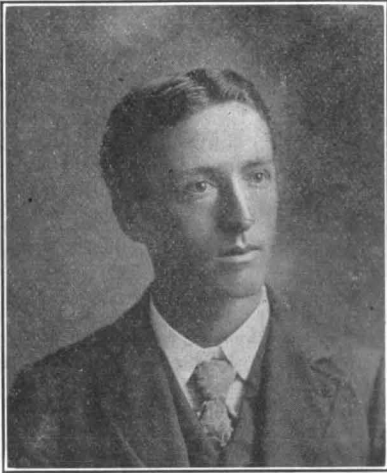
I would like to hear from old friend A. C. Smith, and all the old-timers.

F. P. Manly, Press Sec'y,
P. O. Box 70.

Pittsburg No. 14.

Brothers, take particular notice of the accompanying picture, which is that of Lake Skinner (now known as "Snake" Skinner) who became a member of the I. B. E. W. Sept. 30, 1901. This reptile in human form we have had in our midst for almost seven years, but brothers we have at last been awakened to the fact

that he was one of us in name only. You ask why? Because at present he is working for the Allegheny County Electric Light Co., which has been declared unfair to organized labor on account of trying to reduce our wages 25 cents per day. The most intelligent part of this "snake's" action was the day he chose to start on the Road to Degradation. Stop and ponder, try and imagine a condition existing in the mind of a being in human form that would cause him to get up bright and early Christmas morning,



LAKE SKINNER.

when the world is at peace and the Christmas spirit is rampant, and hire himself to the plant of this unfair company and go to work, selling his soul to the devil and his body to The Allegheny County Light Co. Can you, with your vivid imagination, draw a picture of the condition existing in the soul of a human being that would bring around these results? Better had "Snake" Skinner tied a mill-stone to his neck and thrown himself into the Ohio river; better had he never been born than that he should have after years of membership in the I. B. E. W. He went wrong at the first opportunity; he is even working at the reduced rate of wages,—how do you like that for a chaser? But brothers, we are happy in the knowledge that his influence wasn't even felt in our ranks. Of course, we preferred charges against him and expelled him from the I. B. E. W. Don't you know it takes times like this to separate the wheat from the tares. No matter what the outcome of this trouble we will come out of it stronger than ever, possibly not numerically or financially, but we will be stronger in the knowledge that the fire has purged the true metal of the dross. We will be stronger on account of the experiences

we may have in this trial and on account of the respect which will be created in the case of members, who put their shoulder to the wheel and stand together through thick and thin. There is nothing that cements the tie that binds closer than mutual burdens and trials. I will say this for the members of No. 14, that, although we have some raw recruits, they are acting like veterans. What more can you say of mortal man than that he is bearing his portion of the wage slave's burden. Hoping the next time I write it will be to apprise you of victory.

I am,

Yours fraternally,

J. A. GROVES.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I have been reading over the WORKER of January and I hoped to see something in from No. 14, but as I did not see anything I thought I would write a few lines to let the brothers at large know how things are progressing in the Smoky City. We have a strike on against the Allegheny Co. Light company and have been out since the sixteenth of December and expect to win before long. The company is awful sick of it now, but don't want to acknowledge the fact. They have about eight scabs working and about sixteen (Bums) detectives guarding them and every time four or five of our men go near they they send in a riot call to the police station, so you see what kind of snakes they are. The District Superintendents have confessed that they are sick of the trouble and wish it was over. They say that two of their old men could do as much work as five of the scabs are doing. We called about 85 men off the job and only one has gone back. His name is Lake Skinner. So you see how things are here at present. We have about 116 men loafing here and it don't look like there will be anything doing this winter, so if any of the brothers got any notion of coming here they ought to change their minds and stay where they are. We had Bro. J. J. Reed with us a few days and he gave the boys some good advice. If the brothers would only take it they would be better off than trying to knock him the way I hear some of them doing. He might have a little hot air, but he knows what he is talking about and I only wish we had a few more hot air merchants in our local than what we have got. We have a membership of about 300 and have about from 50 to 100 at each meeting where we ought to have at least 200 or 250 at each meeting. We got to get busy if we want to hold our organization together. The corporations are going to beat us if they can, but if all the brothers get busy and attend the meetings and don't let any one bribe you to throw away your card like they are trying to do in this town and I guess in every other town in the country, the

Postal Telephone Co. in particular. Stick to your obligation boys and we will win in the end.

Hoping to see this in the next issue of the WORKER, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

FRED REILLY.

Pittsburg Pa., Jan. 30, 1908.

Detroit No. 18.

At our regular election, December 27th, the following officers were elected for the coming term: President, Mervin T. Green, 172 Alfred St.; Vice President, Bert Jansen; Financial Secretary, Chas. E. Lakin, 630 Cavalry Ave.; Recording Secretary, Joseph Danahey, 492 Canton Ave.; Treasurer, Fred M. Schneider, 251 Chestnut St.; First Inspector, Ernest Winters; Second Inspector, Chas. Walpert; Foreman, James Scully; Trustee Eighteen Months, James Fernie; Trustee Twelve Months, Philip Pfeifer; Business Agent, George Elder, 14 Court Block, 82 Congress St., E. Our new officers are very capable men and we expect a great improvement in the management of the affairs of No. 18 during the coming year.

Conditions here are improving slowly but we have not fully recovered from the recent financial flurry. We are still out against the Vinton Co., and the way our members have shown themselves to be sticklers is certainly a great credit to the brotherhood. We have lost only two or three since the trouble with Seidler-Miner Elec. Co. and the Vinton Co., and I think that a good record, especially considering the hard times and the large number of men out of employment. We are in hope conditions will improve before long, but at present we have taken advantage of the ninety-day clause and are refusing traveling cards, so if anyone is contemplating coming to Detroit just stay away and watch the WORKER and we will notify you when conditions are good.

While our local is growing rapidly and during the past year we have taken in about 150 new members, still every Friday night a few more are admitted to the mysteries and benefits of the brotherhood. We are always on the lookout for new members and it is the duty of every member to keep after the non-union men until they join our ranks. It is the duty of every mechanic to join a labor organization and those that refuse are blind to their own welfare. It is only by combined effort that we can get conditions, so brothers please get busy. One thing more, and that is to keep up your dues; neither a business institution nor a labor organization can be run without financiers, so don't forget that it is a matter of vital importance to pay up and keep your local on a good financial basis.

With the best wishes to all of the

members of the brotherhood during the present year, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

JOSEPH DANAHEY, Secy.

Philadelphia No. 21.

Well, brothers, as I have been appointed Press Secretary and my first time on the job I hope the Editor will find space for it in our WORKER.

Well, brothers, Old 21 is still in existence and just as strong as ever, but work is very slack around here. There are quite a number of the boys waiting around here for things to brighten up. I would advise any brother looking for work to steer clear of here for the present.

The following officers have been elected for the ensuing term by Local Union 21: President, R. E. Collier; Vice President, F. B. Chambers; Financial Secretary, Wm. T. McKinney; Treasurer, W. Todd; Recording Secretary, Blackadore; Assistant Recording Secretary, C. Clark; Press Secretary, H. J. Chambers; Foreman, H. Gillmore; Inspectors, H. J. Chambers and B. Toebolt.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

BY BERT CHAMBERS.

In speaking of a persons faults,

Pray don't forget your own;

Remember those with houses of glass,

Should seldom throw a stone.

If we have nothing else to do

But talk of those that sin,

'Tis better we commence at home,

And from that point begin.

We have no right to judge a man

Until he's fairly tried;

Should we not like his company,

We know the world is wide.

Some may have faults—and who has not!

The old as well as young,

Perhaps we may, for ought we know,

Have fifty to their one.

I'll tell you of a better plan,

And find it works full well;

To try my own defects to cure,

Before of others tell;

And though I sometimes hope to be,

Nor more than some I know,

My own short-comings bid me let

The faults of others go.

Then let us all, when we commence

To slander friend or foe,

Think of the harm one word would do,

To those we little know;

Remember, curses sometimes, like

Our chickens, roost at home,

Don't speak of others faults until

We have none of our own.

Fraternally yours,

BERT CHAMBERS,

Press Secretary.

Baltimore No. 28.

Well, brothers, as I was put on the job as Press Secretary, will try to write a few lines. In regards to the outlook in our city it is down and out. Speaking of jobs, we have ten men to every job. All brothers having any intention of coming to Baltimore for work had better "Skiddoo" to some other "dump." Watch the WORKER for Slipprey's notification for work.

As we have had an election, and all the "floaters" have left town, the old ring has taken possession. Our officers are as follows: President, J. Billingsley; Vice President, W. Springham; Recording Secretary, Bro. McPherson; Financial Secretary, Chas. Lyford; Treasurer, J. Burkmier; Foreman, A. Bandoff; Inspectors, H. C. Crawford and W. Cole; Trustees, J. Garrity and R. Woods; Press Secretary, H. P. Crawford.

Local No. 299, Camden, N. J.—I hope you are all working and enjoying good health.

If Harry C. Bransby, formerly of Baltimore City, Md., sees this, it will be to his interest to drop a few lines to Bro. Geo. H. Blake of Baltimore City, Md.

As this is my first letter to the WORKER I hope you will excuse me for my first offense.

Yours truly,

H. P. (SLIPPERY) CRAWFORD.

Cleveland No. 39.

The new year has brought many changes to our local; first, Bro. Campbell left us and then we gained Bro. Geib, who is proving a grand success as business agent. Local 464 joined our ranks a few weeks ago. Bro. Dickerson was elected President and is occupying the chair with dignity.

Business in this vicinity is certainly "down and out." It is a lucky man who can claim a job these days. Now, brothers, in our idle moments it is time to get busy and find out for ourselves what is the cause of these periods of business relaxation, especially when they come without any apparent cause. And they do no harm to those who are responsible for it; as usually is the case the working man is the victim of the vested interests. The man who creates the wealth of the land is made a monkey of by the rich loafer to whom the wise philosophers of past ages by their theories of divine rights have given to rule and lord it over all things upon earth, inside of the earth and over the earth. The law that makes the rich man richer, and the poor man poorer is expressed in this manner: "Unto him who hath the the same shall be given tenfold, and unto him who hath not the same shall be taken away." This means, brothers, that if a rich man has a million dollars the law-makers will put him next to

opportunities where he can increase his earnings at our expense tenfold; it also means that if you have nothing in this world but your strong arm and the liberty and rights which your union has promised to secure for you, even these which you have not as yet secured, shall be taken from you, that is, they would take from you all hope for a better life in this world. Because a few brave men of our time have attempted to break this law, the rich man took council and declared a panic. Under our present system of laws it would be practically impossible to fight the trust; to fight, one must have a weapon; the ballot box is ours, but Oh! how sad to see our brothers taking the bread and butter out of their own mouths by fighting each other from year to year. When hunger and starvation commences to weaken our forces, then we will perhaps wake up to our folly. Think about it brothers in your idle moments.

Wishing you all pleasant thoughts and dreams, I am,

Yours fraternally,

THE PRESS SECRETARY.

Syracuse No. 43.

It is with great pleasure that I am again called upon to write an article for THE ELECTRICAL WORKER.

At our last regular meeting the new officers for the ensuing term were installed and another new year's work started. I wish to say at this time that too much importance can not be attached to the various duties assigned to the officers, committees, and members of the local, for it is by this close attention to duties that we obtain the best results. Each and every member should be striving for the welfare of the organization and local. I believe, with our new officers, that we will attain a higher and larger percentage of attendance at the meetings than heretofore, and I trust that our worthy President will endeavor to call the meetings promptly, so as to get through the regular order of business before the wee small hours of the morning.

In regards to working conditions in Syracuse, will say that owing to the general business depression, our work has dropped off greatly, and while we have a few brothers out of employment, I believe that the prospects for a good spring are very bright.

I regret very much to state that our brother Clarence Rixley has suffered the loss of his wife. All the members of the local extend to him our heartfelt sympathy. Resolutions were drafted and a floral piece presented.

We have with us Bro. Donnelly, of the District Council, and with his assistance we have settled a little difficulty which

arose between Local 43 and one of the Syracuse contractors.

Wishing all brothers success and a prosperous New Year, I am,

Fraternally yours,

HARRY J. LEVY,
Press Sec'y Local 43.

Oakland No. 595.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I herewith inclose list of officers elected at our last election, December 27, 1908. I also wish to report that business in our line is very dull at present. Many of our boys are out of work or only working one or two days a week. The officers elected were: F. R. Ellison, President; W. C. Clark, Vice President; W. J. Parr, Recording Secretary; O. F. Erickson, Financial Secretary; H. O. Keefer, Foreman; R. H. Conrad, Treasurer; W. Peterson and J. Olin, Inspectors; R. P. Gale, Business Agent.

Yours respectfully,

W. J. PARR,
Recording Secretary.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

We have had our election of officers for this term, with the following results: President, Frank Ellison; Vice President, W. Clark; Recording Secretary, W. Parr; Financial Secretary, O. F. Erickson; Treasurer, R. H. Conrad; Foreman, H. O. Keefer; Inspectors, G. Ohlin, Chas. Pattison; Trustee, W. Bennett.

On January 10th, we had installation of officers and after that was over our committee, Bros. G. Manis, F. Lee and W. Bennett opened the big doors to the reading room and done the honors with coffee, cakes and other good things for the inside man. After all this was over, Bro. Ellison called the meeting to order again.

The President called on Bro. Murrin of the District Council who gave us a good talk and also some advice. He was followed by J. L. Cook, P. Anderson, myself, the Grandfather, W. Parr, C. A. Murphy, W. Clark and others who had something to say of the electrical workers of the past, present and hope of the future. I think these little gatherings we have are good for the Local. We are thinking of giving a theater party soon at Idora Park.

Working conditions have not improved here since my last letter. Work in all lines is slow. We look for it to improve by spring. No. 6 trouble has not been fixed up as yet. Work is slow over there. We have been looking for our Grand President since the 3d of January, but as yet he is on the way for some reason the trains coming west run slow. Will let you all know when he gets here.

Yours fraternally,

R. P. GALE.

Belleville No. 50.

Just a line from No. 50 to let you and the brotherhood know we are still in the business and meeting the first and third Monday night of each month.

Brothers, if you will take my advice you will not come here with the expectation of getting a job for they are very scarce around here; but we hope that the work will pick up in the spring.

We started in right the first of the year by living up to our by-laws by fining the members who are absent two meetings a month twenty-five cents each unless he can give a good excuse. So brothers, if you have no good excuse you had better attend one meeting a month or pay a quarter.

Our last meeting was installation of officers and we managed to have a fair crowd. Those installed were: President, D. M. Mallinson; Vice President, Henry Ward; Recording Secretary, Fred Woelk; Financial Secretary, Edw. Fredricks; Treasurer, Will Reed; First Inspector, I. D. Dalton; Foreman, Max Kraft; Second Inspector, H. Nehr.

With regards and best wishes to all the locals I will ring off.

D. M. MALLINSON,
Press Secretary.

San Antonio No. 60.

I wish to state that No. 60 is still doing business at the same old stand. The new officers are feeling good over the prospects of work opening up this spring. The city is trying to make the Electric Light, Telephone and Telegraph Companies put their wires under ground. If they succeed there will be work for a few, but at present there are idle men here. The building has stopped on account of the money panic, but we hope everything will be normal soon. I enjoy reading the letters in the WORKER, and wish every local would have something to say. We have some of our members on the sick list with the la grippe and are paying large amounts out for sick benefits. I hope we will soon be able to report all well and working.

Well, brothers, if you see any foxy advertisements for mechanics wanted in southwest Texas, don't pay any attention to them for the woods are full of idle men and San Antonio is not the best union town in America, so fight shy of this burg, for we are feeding and lodging more "floating" brothers now than ever before. I will close for this time.

GEO. C. NORRIS, P. S.
121 W. Hinsache Ave.

Butte No. 65.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Since the last issue of the WORKER, a few things have occurred in the juris-

diction of No. 65 which will probably be of interest to the Brotherhood and organized labor at large.

In the latter part of December there was a number of labor leaders belonging to various Unions cited to the Federal Court to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt. They were charged with complicity in the deportation of some scab linemen in the employ of the R. M. Bell Telephone Co. One member of the International Painters, Paper Hangers and Decorators Union; one member of the International Carpenters and Joiners Union and the executive member of the W. F. of M. of Montana, were found guilty of contempt and convicted of jail sentences and two of them fined. But this method of jailing members of organized labor and throwing down the gauntlet of one man made law. In the form of an injunction to defeat the just cause of a proportionate class has been very reactionary. In this jurisdiction to the R. M. Bell Telephone Co.

Since those men have been convicted there has been wagon loads of Bell Telephones taken out and there has been such a depression of local business that the Bell Co. has laid off the majority of their force of scabs and it is rumored that one of the scabs has brought suit to recover a year's salary, claiming they have broken their contract.

Prior to the conviction of these labor leaders we had more or less desertion in the ranks of organized labor in this vicinity which was the result of twin Central Labor bodies in Butte, but that mighty jugeraunt of an injunction has conciliated all our own petty differences and driven us into one class, conscious central organization where the injury of one is the concern of all, and we thank God for small favors.

On the 22d inst., Local Union No. 65 gave their annual smoker, which was a housing success. For the occasion we engaged Miner's hall, which was packed to its capacity with merry makers. Elegant addresses on the labor and economic problems were the features of the evening. Music and refreshments, concluding with a boxing bout made the smoker more enjoyable.

F. W. UHER,
Press Secretary.

Hamilton No. 105.

Well, brothers, it is such a long time since you have heard from No. 105, that some of the boys must have come to the conclusion that the mountain had did a little sliding and swallowed us up. But those who are thinking in that direction are mistaken, for we are still alive and kicking.

Last summer G. V. P. Reid was with us for a few days and he said that when he came again he would like to see re-

sults. Well, he dropped in last Wednesday and at the special meeting that night he saw the results he had hoped for. In his heart to heart talk with the boys he stated the greatest pleasure in his job was to see the improvement his former visit had brought about. Bro. J. A. Mongean, Organizer for Canada, was also here, but very little can be done in that line around here now, as the Bell men are nearly all off and the majority of the other linemen are also off with a few of the inside men.

To tell the honest truth there is less going on here now than there has been for the last ten years and that as far as I can remember. In the spring we expect conditions to right themselves.

If Bro. Isseman is in the land of the living he might drop me a card.

Yours fraternally,
J. F. MURPHY,
Press Secretary.

Denver No. 111.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As I have the honor of writing you after the consolidation of Local Unions 479 and 121 to be known in the future as Local Union No. 111, it is with pleasure that we think this a stride to make our organization stronger. We have a total membership of 165 members in good standing. We regret to say that the demand for our craft is not so favorable as we would like it to be but from observation of the WORKER we find that the existing conditions prevail throughout the country. The Bell Telephone Co. has reduced its force 85 per cent.

The Light Co. has retained its regular force but the boys are on the anxious bench. The Home Telephone Co. who gained a franchise for a new exchange by the popular vote of the people was unable to start work. On account of injunction of the Belle people which the court sustained we are in hopes that the Home people will win in that case we will have work for all of our craft.

The following is a list of our new officers which I am glad to say are of the proper material: President, Christ. Chuldt; Vice President, C. A. Thompson; Recording Secretary, R. R. St. Clair; Financial Secretary, D. S. Hiatt; First Inspector, Ira Steck; Second Inspector, Fred Hanna; Treasurer, M. M. Steck; Trustees, Ralph Hodges, C. W. Taylor, L. D. Shannep; Foreman, Fred Reed; Press Secretary, P. P. Weinand.

Trusting that should any brothers visiting our city stop at our meetings, 1630½ Curtis st., Thursdays, or address our P. O. Box 127, we would be glad to extend the glad hand.

Fraternally yours,
P. P. WEINAND,
Press Secretary.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 27, 1908.

Louisville No. 112.

Well, as I have been appointed Press Secretary I will try to write a few lines to let the boys at large know we are still in the land of the living.

Work is very slack and will be the rest of the winter, but we are still trying to do business every first and fourth Tuesday night of each month at 115 West Jefferson St., but I am sorry to say the boys, at least some of them, doesn't seem to get themselves together in the right way. Some will come to the meetings once and awhile and manage to pay their dues. It seems as though they think that is all they have to do to be a good union man. Now, brothers, do you think that is the way our big locals do business. It is no way to do. We should go to the meetings and get down to business and cut out all this rag chewing, then you will find we will get through with our meetings early and we will find it much more pleasant than the way we are doing at present. We have had good meetings; why can't we have them again? We can if some of the worthless arguments we have are cut out and we fill its place with something that will be a benefit to the union.

Well, as it is growing late I will close. With best wishes to the boys,

Fraternally yours,

E. M. SCONYERS.

Press Secretary.

Albany No. 137.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

It has been a long time since No. 137 has been heard from through the WORKER and I hope you will find space enough to get these few lines in.

One thirty-seven is moving along nicely and although times are very quiet we get an application now and then. Our new officers were installed on January 10th. At our last meeting, January 24th, we had the pleasure of having a call from the President of our District Council, Bro. Donnelly, who gave us some good advice and a good talk on the good and welfare of the Labor movement at large.

I am sure that every brother that was present was benefited by the remarks they heard. I am sorry to say that our members do not attend very regular. Its funny laboring men cannot find time to attend two meetings in a month. Brothers, wake up! Not only members of No. 137, but all over. We need you now more than ever before. Give us encouragement by your presence at our meetings.

I am glad to report that organized labor in Albany is laboring unitedly with the Anti-Child Labor movement. It is good evidence that laboring men began to see more in organized labor than short hours and more pay. I think it is a

good thing for all Locals and all crafts to take up these questions. Let the outside people see that we are helping every body as well as ourselves, and by taking up such questions as the child labor for twenty or thirty minutes of each meeting I think our meetings will be more instructive and we will get good results by a larger attendance.

Well, brothers, work is very slack in Albany, both inside and out, so there is not much use coming this way as we have men in all branches idle.

I remain,

Fraternally yours,

F. MINER,

Press Secretary.

Albany, N. Y., Jan 28, 1908.

. Wheeling No. 141.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 141, of Wheeling, W. Va., wishes to notify all locals of the I. B. E. W. to communicate with our Local, No. 141, before accepting Bro. R. W. St. Clair into their local. St. Clair left our jurisdiction without a traveling card and is indebted to Local 141 to the sum of \$100. Thanking you for the favor, we remain,

Yours fraternally,

L. E. KNAPP,

Recording Secretary.

Washington No. 148.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Hello, throw your switch and hang up your receiver, here comes No. 148 once more. As your humble servant was appointed press secretary last meeting night, I will have to do something if only to sign my name. Wake up, boys, and come to your meetings, you don't know how much good we are doing up there and you don't know what you are missing. Brothers, I think you can all come at least twice a month.

Well, No. 148 is getting along nicely at present, we are just about holding our own now, as work is a little scarce here at present time. We have very few strange faces here now. We are hoping it will bloom up again in the spring.

The two Lyons Brothers are with us again, one of them has gone to work for the Light people, but am sorry to say the other brother is unable to work as he is still feeling his hospital care.

I certainly did like that letter in last months WORKER from D. M. M., Local No. 37. If we only had a few with his opinion. And another thing we must bear in mind with Bro. D. M. M.'s opinion and that is we must never allow ourselves to think, not even think we are weak and losing ground. Make ourselves believe we are strong.

Look at David; what he done to Goliah with his little rock, or was it Go-

hiah and David, or was it Daniel in the Lion's den.

We have so many brothers working in the country at present that it is rather hard for us to catch three of a kind much less a full house.

Bro. Bailey was in from the country Monday night to see us. There is one thing I think No. 148 and a whole lot of other sister Locals needs is a good working business agent. I believe we could all gain ground by it.

Well as I never was a very good reporter (not even to my wife), I will ring off and watch and see what becomes of this. As this is my first attempt I hope it will miss that little basket.

With best wishes to one and all and success to the I. B. E. W., I close.

O. A. HOLLEMBEAK.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 29, 1908.

Oklahoma City No. 155.

It has been some time since Local 155 has had an active Press Secretary and no one told voluntarily of the things that were happening, or not happening, here. I have been elected to that most honorable position and will do my best.

We have had our election and installation and all are satisfied, especially the ones that were elected, and they are more than proud, but, of course, they put up the "stall" that they didn't want the job, but by a very little character study you can see they are more than pleased.

Bro. J. C. Clarke has been rather unfortunate the last few weeks, as he has been the victim of a severe attack of rheumatism and has hardly been able to get around. Bro. H. G. Walker, our most worthy newly elected President, is going to quit splicing cable soon, I think, as he has bought a small farm in the north suburbs and is going to be a Methodist from now on and raise "yaller legs," and give each "floater" a chicken dinner. I will let you know when the proper time comes.

Local 155 is very proud of itself as a body and especially of one of its members, W. A. Wash, probably better known as "Bo," as he is now placing after his name "City Electrician," and for the short time he has held the position he has been giving the best of satisfaction.

There is no work going on in this part of the woods now to speak of, and no promising prospects. There are a few brothers in town out of work and hardly a day passes but what some come in and take in the situation and are gone again. Bro. Tom Kelly, the organizer for the north end of this District, made us a few very pleasant calls last month and we are always glad to see him.

Trusting this answers the purpose this time I will throw the switch, wishing success to all.

AL. WALKER.

Fort Worth No. 156.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

On account of sickness, I failed to "get in" for January. Things are extremely quiet in Ft. Worth. We are expecting trouble with the Consumers Light and Power Co. soon. Bro. L. E. McNally, is recovering from an operation for appendicitis. Bro. Ed. Shotts a nail in his foot; he is now improving. Bro. Ollie Gerard has rheumatism. The boys are all trying to "boost" and I have great hopes for our ultimate success, both locally and nationally.

I note from the District Secretary's report for last quarter that some of our largest locals in District Council No. 3 are in arrears. Now, boys, this looks bad! Every member in District Council No. 3 should be alive to the good that this Council has done. Such old "stand-by's" as Locals 155, 301, 72, 69 and others cannot afford to fail to co-operate in every possible way with the other locals, to the end that we get better conditions in District No. 2. Brothers, let every local and every individual member of every local do everything to help to harmonize. Let us all work, work, work, never mind whether everything suits you in detail, our object is to elevate—to lift up! to make every member a better man to-day than he was yesterday. Brothers, we are engaged in the noblest work under the sun—the emancipation of the "horny-handed sons of toil." Every member of this grand, old I. B. E. W. should remember that they have taken an obligation, that if lived up to, will make of them the most righteous and dependable citizens this world has ever produced!

Success to every member.

Fraternally,

ROBT. G. "CRIP" WRIGHT,
Press Secretary.

Los Angeles No. 171.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

On the streets of the beautiful city of the "Angels," daily, in many places, are held two meetings by the different religious denominations to gather the unemployed (of which there are thousands of mechanics and laborers in Los Angeles to-day, and still the number is increasing), around a false throne, by the aid of religious superstition, that their minds may be drawn from the system of the capitalistic class, that in this beautiful city has uttered the cry of "low wages," "down with the unions" and "starve the Totemites into submission," that the working class may war one against another, and yet believe that the fair king Christ will forgive all their wrongs towards their fellowmen, whom they are trying to cast into slavery at the dictation of the great bankers' association, to whom the working man has entrusted his

wealth in this city to the extent of some thirty-odd million dollars. One bank in this city alone has twenty-four million dollars in its safe deposit accounts, and no workingman may draw over five dollars of their accounts at any one time. Still the false preachers of this country preach and teach "pray to the Lord and all will be right." Now, men, (I say MEN! not meaning parrots or things unspeakable), say to such preachers as teach you to be submissive to abuse of the great laws of nature, "that all men have a right to a good living and a home, and no man has the right to live on the labor of another; that the hell you preach of has better souls in its confines than yours; I am part God, and as such I demand Justice, aye, stern Justice, untempered with mercy! What belongs to me I will have, and if those I have helped to give power to rule do not give Justice in its three-fold nature to the working class it is time to unthrown them, and unthrown them we will; away with your superstitious creeds; give to us the dogmas that the earth and all things therein was created for he who labors by the sweat of his brow, and have it we will, even if we must perforce make our own laws to that end."

Speaking of banks, Oh! what a beautiful system this nation has for its national banks, who, when they deposit \$500,000 get in return that same amount of bonds and \$450,000 in currency to do business on, drawing interest on the bonds and using the money to loan. What protection has the depositors of ten or twelve million dollars in such a bank? Well, just fifty thousand dollars, spelled in small letters. Now, in the savings banks there is no protection at all. When you deposit your money therein, the bank reserves the right to demand a ninety-day notice before you can draw one single penny, if they wish. The money you place in savings banks is loaned to corporations to do business on. Now, if you were to go on a strike against one of those corporations the bank having a list of the names of the strikers would demand a ninety-day notice from the striker before he could get money to even live on. Thus, you can see, you are at the mercy of the merchants and manufacturers wherever you turn, under the present banking system. And to further place the collar around your neck the banks are demanding of Congress that a law be passed for their benefit, wherein they can also control the treasury of the nation.

Now, brothers, in the name of the universal brotherhood of mankind I make a plea through this epistle to you to agitate and demand the only means of independence that is left open to us. Lay aside politics and demand postal banks at all money-order offices backed by the

U. S. Treasury. All moneys to be loaned on first mortgages only, at the rate of six per cent interest. Do this and break the backbone of the corporations.

KHORSAL ODIN,

Owensboro No. 216.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As this Local has been silent so long, no doubt some of our old members has begun to think that we are a thing of the past, but such is not the case. We are very much alive and doing business at the same old stand. Tuesday nights. Our membership is not as large as formerly but we have some Union men and that is what it takes to make the I. B. E. W. a success and we are always willing to contribute what we can to help the cause along. Work is rather dull here at present and no bright prospects for the near future. The companys are only using a few men each to keep up trouble and line orders. Bro. C. Smith and gang are at Earlington rebuilding the town.

Bro. Thos. Potts who recently fell from a tree and broke his collar bone is able to be out again. Bro. Robt. Demoss blew in recently and is working at the Home Telephone Co. Bros. Morrison and Keifner are doing Police duty and they look like officers of great ability.

It seems like the floaters have about took this burg off of their map, anyone passing through will be treated right if he has the goods, otherwise nothing doing. Hello, to the boys of No. 65. Don't give up the ship.

Well, as another party wants the line I will hang up.

Wishing all members success, I remain,

Yours for the I. B. E. W.,

E. S. MITCHELL,

Press Secretary.

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 28, 1908.

Seattle No. 217.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The following are the conditions that we have in our city at the present time. All general contractors have taken up the non-union shop, and are enforcing it at present. We have only four jobs that are fair, and they will not last only about two or three weeks, and besides, we have only four men on these jobs. We have a membership of about 200, and out of the 200 we have about 20 men working. The Building Trades have called a general strike on all jobs where the open-shop has been introduced. We have men with families that have not had work for a month or more, and you readily see that we have to take care of the men we have here, in the way of living. We are receiving communications from all parts of the east and middle west as to work and our conditions, and many are coming without communicating. We have

written many locals as to our local conditions as well as to brothers that have made inquiries. It seems that we cannot impress them to keep away.

The Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition has been officially declared as unfair by the Buildings Assembly at their last meeting.

You can see by the above conditions that we are justified in asking for our charter to be closed as per Constitution.

There are no new buildings being started as yet but they expect to be, with their open-shop conditions. I have given you the general data on our conditions, and hope that you will give this matter your immediate attention. I am, as ever,

Yours fraternally,

E. S. SCHOCK,
Financial Secretary.

As the time is ripe for another report I will endeavor to write a few lines. Our regular election was held at a special meeting the latter part of last December. We had a good attendance and the balloting was lively, with every one in good spirits. The following principal officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, H. Helpert; Vice President, F. Williams; Treasurer, H. Weber; Financial Secretary, E. L. Schock; Recording Secretary, J. Ne-Page.

Besides the above we had a number of other offices to fill. Contrary to custom most of the members were willing to do their part and thus the offices were more evenly distributed.

Work in this city is practically at a standstill. Most of our membership is idle. We wish to notify the Brotherhood that we are in recognized difficulty and cannot accept any traveling cards. We have complied with the constitution to that effect and a notice should be found on another page of this issue. Some building contractors are endeavoring to force the open shop rule, so far no attention to any ads of any description for mechanics as the coast is flooded with idle men. Seattle can boast of a relic of the dark ages, namely, A Chain Gang.

The city is making a half hearted attempt to assist the hundreds of unemployed by giving a couple of hundred men employment clearing stumps, etc., for the princely wage of 25c per day and board.

Well, brothers, it is a disagreeable task to mention such things, but it is a fact. I deem it my duty to state conditions as they are, so I repeat stay away from the coast and pay no attention to any ads. If you desire to come under present conditions don't complain if you find things contrary to your liking. We have all the brothers we can take care of and you make a hardship for not only yourself but for others. 'Nuff Ced!

Bro. Geo. Johnson an old member of

our Local, has recently returned from California. Bro. Bourne has accepted a position on the Army Transport Dix for Manila recently. He wishes to be remembered to Local 23 of St. Paul. Bro. Hutchinson, of Minneapolis is employed at the navy yard at Bremerton. Bro. Arnott also one of former members is also there. A thriving little Local exists there. Would be pleased to hear a few lines from some of our brothers who have started floating. As I have no more of interest to write, I will come to a close.

With success to the Brotherhood, and best wishes to all, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

H. WEBER,

Press Secretary.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 25, 1908.

Beaumont No. 221.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Having again been appointed Press Secretary, I will try to get a few lines in the WORKER.

Our line of work is a little scarce in this part of Texas, just now, and about all we can do for the floaters is to give them a bed and something to eat and pass them on. Already we have had to pass on quite a few. But we hope everything will be better soon; any way, we always do the best we can for a traveling brother if he can show us a paid up card, for that is the only argument that will go here. We have heard the man without a card tell his hard luck story so often, that it is not worth while for him to repeat it.

Our Local is doing very well at present, and the boys are still doing a little missionary work, as we cut in a new light every meeting or so, and keep the goat in practice.

We have very little change in our officers for this year. Most of the old officers retain their places.

We hope to see many new "converts" this year; and hope the good day will soon arrive when the man without a card will be eliminated.

Bro. Frank Swor was in town a few days ago looking after the interest of the Brotherhood. We enjoyed his visit very much, but was sorry he could not stay to attend our meeting.

The following officers have been installed: President, J. O. Alexander; Vice President, W. W. Sisler; Financial Secretary, Robt. Ramey; Recording Secretary, J. S. Collins. Fraternally,

ROBT. RAMEY,

Box 524.

Beaumont, Texas, Jan. 27, 1908.

Birmingham No. 227.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, brothers, as it is about time that No. 227 should get a letter in the WORKER. I hope that all the brothers will excuse

our press secretary for the way he got things balled up in last month's letter.

Well, brothers things don't seem to change here very fast in the coal region, so I don't advise any brother to come this way just at present, for we have all we can attend to. But if you will come we will do as much as we can for you providing you have the "goods."

I would like to see more of the members attend the meetings, but they all have some excuse, of course. If all the brothers would put their shoulders to the wheel then we can make them come or put them on the other list which we have with some names on now, so Brothers attend to your meetings in your hall and not on street corners and in saloons, for that is not the place for them. Go to your hall and show your hand. Don't be a back-slider; don't stay away just because there is some one there that you don't like. You have just as much right there as he is if you pay your dues. Let us be as one another and stop so much rag chewing and get down to business. Go to your hall every meeting night, forget the past and the next morning you will feel a great deal better; so back-sliders, try this one time and see if I am not telling the truth.

Well, brothers, I guess I had better ring off, hoping this will escape the waste basket.

As ever yours,

J. E. B.

Treasurer Local 227.

Dayton No. 241.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 241, Dayton, Ohio, will throw on the juice to light up the WORKER and its readers. Its been a long time since you heard from us but were not dead yet. Work is pretty dull now and a good many are loafing.

Last July our Financial Secretary skipped town with about eighty-six dollars of the Local's money which went pretty bad at that time but we got out all right. The brother has a wife and two children living here in Dayton and also a mother. Before he left town he was always a hard worker for us but outside influence got the best of him and he spent a little at a time, expecting to pay it back but it got too big so he got out of town which gave it all away.

His dear mother came to me one day and wanted to know if he would pay back all he had taken if he could come back, so a committee was appointed to investigate. After having a talk with his mother, and remembering the old adage, your mother is your best friend, and receiving a letter from the ex-brother we presented it to the Local. After a little debate it was voted to reinstate him upon payment of dues and money taken, believing that

when a man is down to boost him rather than kick him lower.

The brother I have been writing about is Wm. J. Aman, and if any brother meets him in Dayton or any other city, give him a welcome hand because before we reinstated him he was parted from all that was dear to him, mother, wife, children and friends, and knowing he did wrong wanted to make a man out of himself again.

Hoping you readers will think the same as we did in this case and knowing he could make a better man out of himself we remain,

Fraternally yours,

GEO. H. KNELL.

Dayton, O., Feb. 1, 1908.

Toledo No. 245.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

No. 245 is going to cut in on pole pins, top arm 110 is all.

It may seem strange to hear that every member of No. 245 has a job, but the have; those who are not working have a job looking for work, which is so scarce in Toledo that you can not break in the work-house and try to work. All you get is "five and costs and sixty days." The electrical "biz" in this city is in poor condition, from the labor end, and no prospect of getting better soon. But No. 245 meets every Monday night just the same. Bro. Myers, District Organizer, is in our midst and there is a change taking place in some of the card men. New faces are seen in the hall and also applications are coming in in very good shape. I hope it continues, but you all know what some linemen are as long as they have a job. They work so hard during the day that it is impossible to get up to meeting. But if they get out of a job you can see them there every night, good and strong union men. Toledo has a few, not many. Come, boys, line up, don't wait for a cut in wages to line you up and then go looking for trouble, as it is easy to get and terrible expensive, as former experience has taught us.

Now, if this meets approval I may try the pen again, but as we are like the angels, only heard from every four years, don't wait but come up to meeting. You are welcome, and we are glad to see you.

Carbon all gone.

Fraternally yours,

C. E. MILLER,
Press Secretary.

Steubenville No. 246.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, brothers, I was appointed press agent at our last meeting and while I never had any experience in this line of work, I will try to have a line in

the WORKER each month to let you know that Local 246 is still among the living.

We have had a long strike on with the Bell and National Telephone Companies. Last week it was called off with the National, only. The Bell is still unfair. "Nothing doing" here as we have at least a dozen of our own men loafing.

Should Arthur Murray see this article please write to Charles Conn, Adams St., Steubenville, Ohio.

Yours fraternally,
ROBERT B. MAXWELL.

Providence No. 258.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As we have not been heard from of late through the columns of our Journal, I hope you will find space in the February WORKER to spill a little ink for us.

We are still doing business in the old stand and gaining a few new members each month, after passing through a ten week's strike last summer. We find at this writing that we are stronger and have more members than ever before, thanks to the noble assistance of the Brotherhood at large, while on the fring line. Although we did not get just what we went after a great many of the men have had wages raised and in many cases their hours are shorter. Altogether we feel that we have made some progress since the strike. We also notice that some of those people that hold a position about two inches higher than the linemen and whose duty as they see it is to come out on the work and find fault with everything they see have very suddenly changed their tactics. They seem to act a little more manly of late, perhaps they got a tip from the powers that be not to go quite so fast. However, those things all help a little. We are having the same trouble that all Locals have from time to time in getting members to attend meetings. I hope members reading this letter will remember that paying dues does not make a Union man. They must attend meetings and help transact business that comes efore the body.

Mr. Grape Nuts, the gentleman from Battle Creek is out in the papers today, January 28th, with a very sad piece entitled, Free Riot Laws. Poor Mr. Grape Nuts, it is a very sad piece and sounds like the last kick of a dying mule. Poor man, he must have been bumped lately.

With best wishes, I am,

Fraternally,
D. J. SPELLMAN,
Press Secretary.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 28, 1908.

Winnipeg No. 275.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

On December 3d, Locals 166 and 435 of Winnipeg, Canada, held their annual smoker. That the boys know when they have a good thing was evident by the

large attendance, there being 350 present. Of course, Bro. Woodman was once again master of ceremonies, and again added to his laurels by having everything on time.

The following program was way ahead of last year: Songs were given by Kensington Quartette, Harvey Quartette, A. Marshall, T. Perrin, R. Heney, W. Gall, W. Weldon, Mr. Cessford, Mr. Ross, Mr. Pulman, Mr. Reull; Recitation, T. Perrin; Comic Sketch, A. G. Crowley; Handcuff Exhibition, W. Morley; Step Dancing, Kemp & Carlton; Pianoforte Selections, Mr. Pontz; Violin Selections, Mr. Cessford.

Our enterprising committee, who were Messrs. Bloomer, McBride, McKittrick, Irving, Roy Elgar, Hessel, McMillan and Atkins, spared nothing to make this a success, and amid the sing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," the midnight hour brought this successful venture to a close, everyone departing in the best of spirits for having spent a most enjoyable evening.

Yours fraternally,
GEO. H. IRWIN,
Press Secretary.

Oakland No. 283.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I trust this letter will reach you in time for insertion in February WORKER. Owing to the fact that I have been rather busy this month I have delayed writing to the WORKER. I will state that after several conferences with the officials of the Pac. Tel. & Tel. Co., we have submitted a proposed wage agreement to a referendum vote to the Locals in the jurisdiction of the Pacific District Council and while we have gained no great concession from this company still we have lost nothing; in some instances we have secured a slight increase, especially so to foremen and sub-foremen. Also we believe that the working rules are much more favorable than what we worked under last year. Whether or not this agreement will be accepted by the members remains to be seen as the vote will probably not all be in before February 10th, the time specified.

On Tuesday January 28th, we expect to have our final conference with the official of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Co., and while we are not asking for any increase in wages for San Francisco and Oakland, we are asking for better conditions for outside plants and we believe we will succeed in procuring a good agreement with this company.

Now brothers, while our working conditions out here are pretty fair with all the company's I am sorry to state that none of the company's are doing any work to speak of, in fact there is no construc-

tion work of any kind being done at present and no prospects of any being done in the near future. Therefore, brothers, you can imagine the number of idle men that we now have on this coast. The Home Telephone Co. of San Francisco have suspended operations and laid off all of their employes thereby causing the list of idle members to be increased. None of the officials can give any information as to when their respective company's will begin to resume work, so at this time the outlook is anything but encouraging.

I wish to state at this time that for the last few days there were some prospects of a settlement of the No. 6 trouble, as Local No. 1, Electrical Mechanics of California submitted a proposition to No. 6's Executive Board whereby they could reorganize. This was submitted to the members of No. 6 and at a special meeting held by No. 6 last evening the proposition was rejected by the members, so I can not say at this time what the next move will be, but as our Grand President, F. J. McNulty is now on the ground, I look to him to be able to bring about a settlement in the near future.

Now, brothers, as I must hustle to get this letter on its way in order that it may appear in the February issue, I will have to close, so wishing all members of the I. B. E. W. every success, I remain,

Fraternally,

HUGH L. MURRIN.

Oakland, Calif., Jan. 25, 1908.

Fargo No. 285.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As the writer was away on a business trip last month, the result was I was unable to get in the usual letter.

I wish to state that everything is in a fairly prosperous condition here, everybody working, although there is no rush or any vacancies.

We had our usual election of officers for the ensuing six months, as follows: President, L. W. Maley; Vice President, George Iles; Recording Secretary, C. E. Parry; First Inspector, Blake Cannon; Second Inspector, J. J. Ellums; Treasurer, F. R. Hoffman; Financial Secretary, Oscar Bergerson; Foreman, Bud Burt; Trustee, William Burt; Press Secretary, C. E. Parry; Delegates to Trades and Labor Assembly, T. W. Maley, O. Bergerson and B. Cannon.

I also see that the boys in Duluth are sticking together bravely in the trouble in the lockout of the Building Trades there. Now, this is a proof that this organized labor movement is just like a great wheel, of which the I. B. E. W. is but a spoke, and while each spoke holds together, it is perfect and strong, but as soon as one of these spokes gives way, the body is very much weakened.

To get the best results, let each spoke do the best and all it can to strengthen

the others. We all know that the whole body is only as strong as the weakest spoke. A weak spoke may not be one of small membership, as some of the strongest are smallest in point of membership, but the small membership is more than made up by the thorough manner in which they uphold union principles. And one of the finest of these is that whenever purchasing any article, see that it bears the LABEL.

The man who deliberately goes into a store and purchases non-union goods is, in a sense, worse than the "scab," because he poses before the world as a union man, gets all the benefits of his local, but when it comes to upholding the movement at large by insisting upon labeled goods, he forgets, and buys the "scab" goods, and the sooner the union movement can either purge or educate this class, the better for all concerned.

With best wishes for the success of the WORKER and the I. B. E. W. at large, not forgetting yourself, I am,

Fraternally yours,

C. E. PARRY,
Press Secretary.

Poughkeepsie No. 296.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, as I have been appointed Press Secretary again, I will try and let the brotherhood know what is going on around here. Things at present are not very good. Work is as scarce as hens' teeth, but I hope something will turn up in a month or so.

Well, brothers, we held a Smoker at our room, 688 Washington St., and we had a fine time. There was about one hundred present and everybody enjoyed themselves very much. The evening was passed by singing and dancing, speech-making and story-telling. We had plenty to eat, drink and smoke, so that made it all the more enjoyable.

Well, brothers, I have not got much to say this month, so I guess I will pull the plug for this time. With best wishes to brotherhood at large and a happy New Year, I remain,

B. SMITH,
Press Secretary.

Auburn No. 300.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, brothers, as I was put in Press Secretary in December, and under the new election of officers I had another handed to me as Recording Secretary, so with all my jobs, I guess I will keep busy. This is my second letter to the WORKER.

We took a new brother in last meeting from Seneca Falls.

I would like to try and impress upon the brothers of attending meetings more regular, and watch over the interest of the Union matters, so as they would not

have to depend upon a brother to inform them the next day.

There isn't anything doing around No. 300's district yet. All the company's are running short handed and probably will for two or three months. We hope it will open up soon. We have got a few brothers out of work.

I will have to close, as the fuse is blown and the lead in my pencil is all worn off.

Hoping this will escape the waste basket. With best wishes to all.

E. J. HOSKINS,
Recording Secretary.

Auburn, N. Y., Jan. 24, 1908.

East St. Louis No. 309.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 309 is again heard from and wish to say that you will hear from us every month. Everything is progressing nicely at present, we have been trying to do a little organizing while some of us are out of work and if Bro. J. S. Kinney, known better as "Ding Bat" Kinney will write Local No. 309, it will save him some trouble. If any brother seeing this and also Bro. Kinney, please see that he writes No. 309. I am sorry to say that Bro. Wm. Utterback has lost his wife and I wish you to publish a few words of condolence for him, his and her people.

WHEREAS, The Lord in His great wisdom and infinite mercy has seen fit to take our beloved friend, the beloved wife of Bro. Wm. Utterback unto Himself that she may be freed from the cares and worries of this life.

Local No. 309 hereby extends to him our heartfelt sympathy in this his sad bereavement. We feel for him, as his dear wife was a friend to our cause and was always ready to lend a helping hand whenever she could.

As this is all for this time, I will close.

Yours fraternally,
LEONARD SIMS,
Press Secretary.

East St. Louis, Ill., Feb. 2, 1908.

Bellingham No. 314.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As it has been some time since Local 317 has had an article in the WORKER, it may be interesting to know that we are still doing business.

The following officers were elected at our last regular election: President, E. A. Miller, Vice President, Lafe Moore; Financial Secretary, C. P. Hoskins; Treasurer, W. Nelson; Recording Secretary, J. C. Brisbin. All good sticks from a bunch of good timber and if the brothers will attend the meetings, take an interest in the proceedings and assist the officers with their suggestions and support, we will certainly do business in 1908.

Things are rather quiet at this writing, as there is no big big jobs doing, but

nearly all of the brothers are working. The Light is doing about three miles transmission and the Shine have a small bunch on estimate work. The Home Tel. Co. is not doing anything, but expect to get busy soon. Everything considered, we have pretty good prospects for 1908. It was voted at Central Labor Council to publish in the Local Labor Journal the names of brothers who patronize unfair business places. It is quite unnecessary to say that it did the business. We are considering going that one better and imposing the same penalty on brothers who fail to attend meetings. This will not only be an inducement to attend regular meetings, but will insure the brothers reading their paper—something we should take more interest in.

We meet every Monday night at Eagle Hall on Elk St., and all visiting brothers with the "goods" on them will be treated right.

Wishing all brothers success, I remain,
Fraternally yours,

W. J. CORWIN,
Press Secretary.

Binghamton No. 325.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

We started the new year with practically the same officers as last term and look forward to another prosperous year. Although we are facing the same problems that keeps the majority of Locals guessing, namely, payment of dues and attendance, the outlook is very bright as nearly each meeting brings a brother into line.

The boys are preparing for the annual ball to be held Monday evening, March 2. The Electrical Workers dances have been a success, socially and financially, for three seasons, and the fourth annual promises to eclipse them all.

We make a specialty of electrical effects and the dancing public looks forward to the "wire stretchers hop."

Our Local felt the effect of the recent business depression, but we think we suffered the least of the building trades owing to the amount of old work on hand at the time. We are now down to "job" work and will welcome the spring opening.

No. 325 sends best wishes to her traveling members and the Brotherhood at large.

F. E. ROBBINS,
Press Secretary.

Binghamton, N. Y., Jan. 25, 1908.

Oswego No. 328.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At our last election of officers I was elected Press Secretary and will try and write a few lines for the WORKER to try and please our brothers, and especially Bro. Gallagher, who took particular pains to see that I was elected.

Well, with no offense, I will do the

best I can. As it has been a long time since Local 328 has had anything in the WORKER, and I want to let our fellow brothers know that we are still alive, I wish to state in particular that on Friday night, January 17th, after the installation of officers, that we had a very pleasant smoker and enjoyed it very much, as we had plenty to smoke, eat and drink, and I think that some of the brothers would be there yet if the good things had held out, especially Bros. L. A. France, Wall and L. France. But it makes a fellow feel mean to try and have a good time for the brothers and then have only half of them come when you expect them all, as they should. But that is nothing new for some of our brothers not to come for we have some who come about once in three months and then only to pay dues. I think that it is time they should get on to themselves and attend a meeting once in a while, and I hope that when they read this letter that they will get ashamed of themselves and attend a meeting at least once a month, and not say that because we have got a few wise heads who attend every meeting that there is no need of them going. They ought to forget that and think as the brothers who are attending every meeting think and that is that the local wants them and they want the local, for as I want to say that if it was not for the local that some of the brothers would not be getting the coin that they are getting, so I think it is time that we saw some of the absentees there on meeting nights.

Well, I think that I will have to sneeze for my brain is getting dusty trying to think of something to write. I will say that work is pretty slack here as we have three or four brothers who are not working. We are taking in a new brother once in a while, as fast as they come along. Well, as I have got a short circuit in my fingers from writing this long letter I will shake it out and close, hoping that our brothers will attend more regular, and with success to the I. B. E. W., I remain,

Fraternally yours,
BERT FRANCE,
Press Secretary.

Kansas City No. 356.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As No. 356 has not been heard from for some time, will attempt to shoot off a few words to let the brothers over the country know we are still in existence and doing business in the same old stand. Owing to the fact we have been on strike against the Missouri and Kansas Telephone (Bell) since August 23, 1906, our membership has decreased to a certain extent. We still have a nice membership and fair attendance. We have had a long and hard fought battle with the Bell to

better our conditions and must say we have a loyal bunch to the cause in old K. C.

Work is awful dull here at present. Have quite a few on the loafing list who is willing and does do any old thing to keep up this fight and feel confident we will win in the end and are determined to fight to the bitter end.

Would advise all who are thinking of coming this way to stay away at present at least. The different trades of Kansas City have for some years past had an association known as the Labor Temple association for the purpose of building a home for organized labor and are proud to say we now have the building under construction and are up to the bottom of the fourth floor with one more story to go.

When completed it will be one of the finest of its kind anywhere in the country. Our intentions are to get in it some time this summer or fall. Here is hoping we win our strike in the near future at which time we will have a good job and fine home to invite all brothers who have the green goods in their pockets to enjoy living in a good town.

With regards and best wishes to all, I am,

Yours fraternally,

J. T. MINCHISON.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 30, 1908.

Los Angeles No. 370.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The situation with No. 370 has changed very little since the Brotherhood last heard from her through these columns. There is no work here at present for "Inside Telephone and Switchboard Men." We are not in difficulty of any kind, just "overstocked." There are good telephone men, members and non-members, by the score walking the streets or doing such odd jobs as they can find to do.

The same is true of almost every other craft as well. The reduction of forces in every branch of industry—a sequence to the recent financial stringency—has thrown thousands of men out of employment. Los Angeles now has more than her share of these unemployed, due largely to misleading reports sent out from this city regarding conditions here.

These reports are correct in part only. We are proud to confess that this is a "beautiful and growing city," and we have a "glorious climate." But work is scarce rather than plentiful, as advertised, and, in comparison with other cities, living expenses are high and wages are low in most trades. We telephone men, that is those of us who are working, are fortunate enough to be getting a scale of wages that would balance the increased living expenses, and place this city in the same class as eastern cities, as regards our craft, if there was plenty of work.

Both the Bell and Independent compan-

ies have reduced their working forces to a minimum. There is very little new work going on either inside of outside, and only such reconstruction and maintenance as is absolutely necessary.

So, brothers, if you are thinking of traveling, we would thank you to omit Southern California from your list. Do not, as many others have done, blow out here on the strength of what you might read in eastern newspapers, or on railroad time cards, but let us hear from you before you come this way. Any of the officers of this Local will be pleased to advise you at any time concerning the conditions in this vicinity in our branch of the trade. And meanwhile, we shall keep you posted through the WORKER, and when conditions are more favorable we shall be glad to tell you so and invite you to pay us a visit.

And when you come we are going to have something nice to show you, for we are nearing the completion of the largest and finest Union Labor Temple in the United States, and it is being built by Union Labor, of Union Made materials, purchased with Union earned dollars.

Fraternally yours,

B. LESLIE ZAERR,

Press Secretary.

Pasadena No. 418.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At our meeting held January 13th, the following officers were installed for the coming term: President, Al Bolyard; Vice President, William Tordoff; Financial Secretary, Geo. Corrin; Recording Secretary, Ralph Munger; First Inspector, B. Stoddard; Second Inspector, Geo. H. White; Foreman, W. J. Clandon.

Local 418 last meeting voted a unanimous vote of thanks to Bro. Peirce, our Past President and Delegate to the Central Labor Council of Pasadena, for the untiring energy which he has always exerted for the advancement of unionism in general and the Electrical Workers in particular.

Work on the Pacific Coast is a very scarce article this winter. In fact, a person might say it is an absent quantity. The Pacific State Co. is doing nothing at all and by the looks of things I don't believe they ever expect to do anything except take in the monthly rental on their phones. There are hundreds of brothers out of work in Southern California now and there are more coming this way every day. There are several of Local 418 linemen out of work here; men who have been with one company for years, so it can be early seen that things are in pretty bad shape in this part of the country.

Hoping that something will happen in the near future to make work, I am,

LESLIE H. PRESTON,

Press Secretary.

Winnipeg No. 435.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

It being sometime since Local No. 435 of Winnipeg made an appearance on the pages of the WORKER, and as the brothers have appointed me as Press Secretary, I suppose its up to me to let the Brotherhood know we are still doing business at the old stand. Well, things are very quiet just now. The Light Co. just employing enough hands for maintenance purposes. The brothers have no doubt heard about the Manitoba Government buying out the Bell Telephone Co. plant in this city and province. Personally, I think it is a step in the right direction and have no doubt the people of this province will benefit by the change, providing it is managed in an honest and efficient manner. Sorry to say that a number of our members employed by the Bell Telephone Co. were laid off about a week prior to the Government taking over the Bell system, and have not yet been reinstated, so we have about twenty-five of our members out of employment.

However, the Government is bound to get busy soon and no doubt our comrades will be reinstated in due course.

At our last meeting on January 15th, we installed the following officers for the ensuing term: President, R. G. Irvine; Vice President, L. Layton; Financial Secretary, T. Woodman; Treasurer, J. S. Milne; Recording Secretary, A. A. Miles; Foreman, Wm. Keating; 1st Inspector, G. Cameron; 2d Inspector, Geo. Currie; Trustee, Geo. Hessel; Delegates Trade and Labor Council, J. L. McBride, J. S. Milne, J. Ritche.

I have no doubt the above officers will endeavor to do their best to carry out their duties to the Brotherhood and I ask our members to encourage them by their regular attendance at the meetings, and to aid and assist by their proper conduct and good advice on all questions.

Wishing the I. B. E. W. continued success throughout the coming year, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

A. A. MILES,

Press Secretary.

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 22, 1908.

Oklahoma City No. 456.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

We are experiencing a strike in our town with the firm of Arnold & Beatherbee, we have 5 shops in our town with 4 shops signed.

We are trying to treat all brothers who hit this town right, but brothers do not let any more of these scaley scabs light here in our midst. We have one here who hails or says he comes from Duluth, Minn., and weighs about 180 pounds, smooth face, very light brown hair and has some fingers off of one hand and has a lot of hot air (or oxine). This scaley

earth being, claims to carry a card, but we feel that he has only a button and after working about two weeks he told one of the boys that he did not know there was any trouble here.

Now if any reader should know this scrapings of nothing, kindly tell us all you know. And if you have any suggestions of how to get mysterious buttons, please suggest. Should you come to town ask for "Red" or W. B. Wainscoat, and he will tell you all.

W. W. McFARLAND,
Press Secretary.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 9, 1908.

San Diego No. 465.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a few lines to let the brothers know that No. 465 is still in the ring.

Well, I suppose that when the brothers find out that C. J. B., the Press Secretary stands for C. J. Brown, they will think No. 465 in a bad way for a Press Secretary. Well, brothers, I will put in with you, I think so too, but like the story of the dozen eggs, two bad.

Well, No. 465 has elected and installed the following officers: President, L. A. Clements; Vice President, McElroy Brown; Recording Secretary, Roy Clingman; 1st Inspector, C. H. Hardy; 2d Inspector, A. Youngberg; Foreman, Roy Flagg; Trustee, C. A. Hardy; Press Secretary, C. J. Brown.

Yours for the good of the cause,

C. J. B.,
Press Secretary.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 20, 1908.

Memphis No. 474.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 474, of Memphis, Tenn., met last Monday evening with their newly elected officers in the chair and our Financial Secretary's report shows us that we are in good condition financially, but work is very quiet and no chance to pick up. Will be in line with a delegate to convention in New Orleans.

GEO. UNDERWOOD,
Press Secretary.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 22, 1908.

Indianapolis No. 481.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

It is a long time since I have noticed a letter from No. 481 in the WORKER, and as I have been elected Press Secretary, I will try and get a short one in this month.

We are still doing business at the same old stand.

I wouldn't advise any brothers to head this way as inside work is very scarce now. Our new officers are: President, Oscar Schon; Vice President, Romey

Mitchell; Financial Secretary, R. N. Harvey; Treasurer, Ed. Tharp; Recording Secretary, E. Nessler; Foreman, J. Campbell; 1st Inspector, J. Mehl; 2d Inspector, C. Campbell; Press Secretary, R. N. Harvey; Trustees, Fred Foreman, Harry Fenneman, Ralph R. Kelley.

Well, I guess I have written enough for this time, so I will close. With best wishes to the WORKER and the I. B. E. W.

Yours fraternally,

R. N. HARVEY,

Press Secretary.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 18, 1908.

Tacoma No. 483.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Just a word for the WORKER from No. 483, Tacoma, to let the "hikers" know we are still on the map and occupying a good portion of it too.

Conditions here are as good as any place on the coast, and I must say that is saying very little. It seems that certain corporate interests are circulating reports of scarcity of labor in this country, but to be here and see the men roaming the streets one would think every day was a holiday. But brothers, the Japs and Hindoos have all got jobs.

There is very little doing at line work here and the outlook for the coming year is not the best. No. 483 is getting pretty well on its feet again from the effects of the Home strike.

We gave a grand ball December 10th and the electrical displays were admitted to be the finest ever seen in this city. We cleared 200 "plunks" and brothers it helped a lot in boosting our treasury up.

It was easily done as the boys one and all put their shoulders to the wheel with a determination that assures success in any undertaking.

The 9th of January we gave a social dance and card party for the benefit of the ladies which included specialties by some of our own members.

Refreshments were served and about 75 linemen with their families were present. The affair was a complete success and was for members of the Brotherhood only. We hope to have more of them as it seems to be a stimulator for members who are in arrears.

Our worthy president, Bro. McCamant, was re-elected for the ensuing term. At the present writing he is our representative to the convention of the State Federation of Labor which is holding its sessions in this city.

Thinking I have taken enough space for this time, I will close. With the best wishes to the Brotherhood, I am,

Fraternally yours,

W. R. H.,

Press Secretary.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 16, 1908.

Brooklyn No. 502.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

During the rush getting the Atlantic Fleet ready for their Pacific cruise, there were over 150 of our brothers employed at the yard and if we had the conduit work over 400 more would have found employment for over two months with overtime and now that the rush is over in the Equipment Department there are just 46 men left and only about 5 are I. B. E. W. men.

I think that by a consistent fight with the administration at Washington at the present time we could prove that conduit now costs over \$1.00 per foot to run when done by Plumbers and in a poor way at that, as they heat the conduit in order to bend it in a good many cases and if we could secure this work again it would mean that at least 150 of our men would be taken from a field that is now greatly overstocked with electricians.

The first class rate at the yard is now 64.24 per diem against \$4.00 paid by the contractor; pay for all holidays and 15 days vacation after a year's steady employment as well as Saturday one-half holiday and pay three months in the summer time and after the first of January the pay will increase on the same ratio as that paid by contractors in New York.

Yours fraternally and for a good cause,

EDW. A. LEFEBEE, JR.,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dec. 18, 1907.

WORK AT THE NAVY YARD.

To the Editor of the Standard Union:

Beign a constant reader of your paper, and knowing the interest you take in the local Navy Yard, I hereby wish to call your attention to the great burlesque on work that is now being carried on at the Navy Yard, and that is in regard to electric conduit work on the ships, which is given to the plumbers, steam and pipe fitters.

This work has always been a bone of contention between the above trades and the electricians for the last twelve years, and has been fought out at labor conventions both local and national, with the result that from an electrical and economical point has always been awarded to the electricians, whereas, at the local yard it is given to the plumbers, steam and pipe fitters at a great loss to the Government financially, for, if facts were considered with a view to electrical merit and economy, it would be found that the difference in cost on the Chicago and the Baltimore, the former done by the proper mechanics—electricians—and the latter ship by the plumbers, with the result that it shows a greater economy on the former ship in favor of the electricians, and greater insulation test, as I think the

average cost per foot to run conduit by electricians was in the vicinity of 21 cents per foot, while the cost on the latter ship was 46 cents per foot, not taking into consideration that thousands of feet of conduit were wasted by the plumbers trying to install pipe that they never handled before. At the present time there is a great rush at the local yard, and by the above system thousands of dollars are wasted, as they are now getting steam and pipe fitters, as well as plumbers, to do our work, with the above result. And to prove that it is a great burlesque on work, I will call the public's attention to the fact that all electric conduits are lined with non-insulating compound that has to pass the underwriters' inspection and requirements, as well as the bureau's inspection, which is a farce when you see these men at the yard heat the conduit to a red heat in order to bend the pipe, thereby destroying this insulation, which an electrician never has to do in order to bend, as he thoroughly understands his work, and very seldom wastes a foot a day, while these other mechanics waste hundreds of feet on each ship. In the last few weeks we have had scores of pipe fitters, and without exaggeration it is safe to say that an experienced electrician would do better work at half the cost and could be idle two-thirds of the day, as these so-called plumbers, steam and pipe fitters never actually did any work at the above trades as the Labor Board never investigates a man's trade certificate, with the result that the Navy Yard is overloaded with trade fakers. There are thousands of feet of conduit on every ship, so that thousands of dollars are wasted on each ship, with the result that it keeps work away from our yard.—(From the Daily Standard Union, Brooklyn, N. Y., Saturday, November 16, 1907.)

Yours sincerely,

MECHANIC.

North Yakima No. 523.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

This being the first offense as to our young Local asking for space in the next issue of the WORKER, I hope the verdict will be materially rendered and the space granted as there may be a few wandering brothers that know No. 523 is in existence and may want to know as to its welfare, and as for them and especially all other Locals, I want all to know we are "Johnny on the spot." We have a small Local but every man is a man. All working men here have the green goods and although our treasury is small we are all to the good. There has been once or twice that No. 523 was handed a bunch through the WORKER as being in arrears but that has been a mistake as Bro. Cook will tell you that on both occasions money sent in was misplaced some how and later

returned to us. The books show we are square and this is one of the most thriving little Locals in the Union. You see we are in the fruit growing district and valley of Washington, therefore we know how to trim. Any time they get in here without the green goods and don't bear the fruit, we trim them.

Work just at present is very slack. The telephone people just finished some six months job here and there still remains the customary telephone exercises to be did and there are good men doing it.

With the Light things are not very rushing but they still maintain a closed shop with what force they do need. There has also been some new street car installed in the city that handled card men that does fairly well we think.

We only hope that all Locals are in as good a standing as No. 523 and just as near a closed shop all around. We cordially invite all members of the I. B. E. W. to our meetings which are on every second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Wishing the best of luck to the I. B. E. W. at large, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

C. H. HICKS,

Press Secretary.

P. S.—I also have the name of lineman Bert Kontze. Should he see this, please write to C. McVigh, care Wilcox Bldg., at once, as there is a sum of money coming to him.

North Yakima, Wash., Jan. 26, 1908.

Milwaukee No. 530.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

This being the first chance I have had to let the Brotherhood know that there is such a thing as Local No. 530, Cable Splicers, I take advantage. We have been in existence one year, which we celebrated on December 21, 1907, with a smoker, etc. If not taking too much space in the WORKER, I would like to name our officers. President, L. C. Whitney; Vice President, J. Burke; Recording Secretary, G. W. Dorcey; Financial Secretary and Treasurer, G. G. Sweasey; Press Secretary, F. Prochaska; 1st Inspector, V. Davis; 2d Inspector, C. Delaney; Trustees, F. Robel, E. A. Trembley, H. Pock; Foreman, W. Mauer.

Work here is pretty slack now, in the cable line, and would advise all cable splicers in the Brotherhood not to come here, with the intentions of getting work. We have but a small Local, but good brothers to the Brotherhood. If any brothers happen to float here, we would be more than glad to have them pay us a visit. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday in the month at northeast corner of 3d and Prairie street, second floor, room 9.

Not trying to be too much of a "hog"

as a starter, I will close with best wishes and success to all brothers, I remain,

Yours fraternally,

F. PROCHASKA,

Press Secretary.

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 15, 1908.

San Francisco No. 537.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As it has been some time since the rank and file have heard anything from this part of the country, I will try and let them know how things are as far as electrical work in the outside line is concerned. I will say that it is very dull and would advise all members to stay away from 'Frisco until further notice. In the past two months every company in town have decreased their average working force and from the present prospects it looks pretty dull for the near future. While the Home Tel. Co. has began to build here, they are using very few men, but in case they should desire to increase their force, there is six men for every job and this being our bad part of the year for weather it is not likely that they will begin to do much but in case there should be a demand for men in the near future I will notify the WORKER and you will be welcome in 'Frisco. We have just installed our officers for the ensuing term and we will get down to business once more. They stand as follows: President, A. Allison; Vice President, Frank Noonan; Financial Secretary, S. J. Stowe; Recording Secretary, James J. Wharton; Business Agent, E. S. Hurley; Foreman, Chas. Leibrandt; Treasurer, Geo. Sorenson; Inspectors, Jim Wilks and Ben Cullen.

While our executive board and examining boards consist of good level-headed men we can expect some good results for the coming year. It is our motto to again have the largest outside Local Union in the Brotherhood and by every member putting his shoulder to the wheel, we can accomplish this.

While we have a hard proposition to organize the majority of the men working for the Pacific, our strike with the United R. R. Co. is drawing near a close and we expect a settlement soon.

Well, as I have nothing else of importance, I will wish one and all a happy New Year.

Fraternally yours,

EDGAR S. HURLEY,

Press Secretary.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 8, 1908.

Detroit No. 553.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As we have not had anything in the WORKER for sometime, I will try and let the brothers know, that we have a pretty good year behind us. We had about 40 splicers working in this town last year, but the outlook is not so very good as

the Bell Co. will have their work finished up by February 1st, and quite a number of the brothers expect to get laid off. The Home Co. is not doing very much and they only have a small force working, so brothers, if you are looking for work, Detroit is not a good place just now as quite a number of brothers that came here lately floated away again, as they could not get a job. It is made harder for us as both companies turned out some helpers, which are taking the place of old experienced heads. There are tricks in all trades, and I am glad to notice, that the companies always will fall back on their old men, if they want to have good work done.

I am very sorry to say that I saw in the December number of the WORKER another brother giving points in splicing lead covered telephone cables. I wonder if the brother can't see that he is cutting into his own flesh, for the WORKER is not only read by the brothers, it is also read by outsiders, and there are always some that are gobbling up all information they can get a hold of and will use for their own purposes, but certainly not to the advantage of the I. B. E. W.

We elected new officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, J. Hommerich; Vice President, C. Costello; Recording Secretary, J. Simmons; Financial Secretary and Treasurer, J. G. Dwyer; 1st Inspector, G. Woods; 2d Inspector, W. Berry; Foreman, E. Canavan.

I have very much more to say but I guess my time is up for this trip. Hoping to see this in the next number of the WORKER and with best wishes for all the brothers, I am,

Fraternally yours,

B. SCHULTZ,

Press Secretary.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 19, 1908.

Wallawalla No. 556.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Hello! What relay? Why, 556 to be sure. Well, brothers as this is the first communication from Local 556 I will tell you how we are progressing. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. are paying the scale and doing quite a bit of work at present. The Light laid off a number of men in November but it looks like they would be putting on some more in a few days. The electrical workers and telephone operators gave their first annual ball Monday evening, Dec. 30th. We had a good crowd and came a little to the good. Great credit is due the telephone operators for the efforts at decorating and entertaining. The committee on arrangements were May Callahan, Cora Harbaugh, Maggie Walsh and Bros. Bert Campbell, Gene Walker and "Shorty" Edmonson. The floor committee was composed of Bros. Jack Barkman, Carl Stewart. Everything went fine and a

most enjoyable time was had by all present.

Well, as I have blown a fuse will close. Kind regards to all brothers and local unions. I remain,

Yours fraternally,

C. R. EDMONSON,
Recording Secretary.

Kenosha No. 562.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The lockout we had with the Kenosha Gas and Electric Co., has been settled in our favor. But work here is very scarce now. I think it will open up before long. There has been a few brothers "floated" in the last two weeks and landed a job, so I don't think there are any more left just now. Will drop a line if anything turns up.

Fraternally,

R. B. WHITE,
Recording Secretary.

Tulsa No. 584.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Hello! We have the same complaint to make here that is coming from every place. The Light layed off three line-men about a week ago; they are only working two men and a grunt. The Pioneer Co. is working the same old five or six. I would advise any brother coming this way for work to stay clear for the next sixty days. We are in hopes that things will open up by that time, but if any brother comes this way with a paid-up ticket he can find a meal ticket at the grand restaurant on West Second St. Here he can get two meals and a bed, if his card is not over thirty days behind. We have some brothers out of town that we can not look after as we want to. We have two brothers that is not working at present, Bro. G. W. Van Horn and Bro. Cook. We are having the same old trouble about the members not coming to meetings but they will stand on the street corner and tell others what a fine local they have. They don't realize how hard they are making it on the rest of the members. Now, brothers, do come and take some interest in the work, help to move things along, we have the start to make one of the best local unions in the District if we only do it ourselves; no one else is going to do it for us.

I would like to make a few suggestions in answer to a brother's letter who writes from No. 9. Brothers, we are organized for the protection of the men who work at our craft. We are working people; we are the ones that need help. We pay our money into the local union for this protection; if we do not get it we are not getting value received. Here is a man who is out of work; he goes to some other town; there he takes sick and needs help. He is told by his brothers in this

town that he has got to be a member three months before he can draw benefits. Now, brothers, we are not doing a brotherly act when we turn this brother down. We did not refuse to take his money, why, then, should we refuse to pay the benefits that he has willingly payed us for. I hope to see this amended in the near future.

I would also like to know how many of the brothers that are in fire departments belong to a firemen's association.

Yours fraternally,

J. A. NORRIS,

President Local 584.

Saskatoon No. 589.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

After seeing letter in WORKER regarding conditions in this town from an out-of-town brother, I think it my duty to let the brotherhood at large know how conditions really are here.

He says there is nothing doing on The Telephone, which is quite right, but regarding his optimistic view of conditions on the inside, wish to state that at the present time we have two of the brothers idle, which is quite a big number, considering how small our local is. Also, that we have no wage scale and each individual has to set his own pace according as to how much he can squeeze out of the boss. This difficulty we hope to overcome in the near future but at present the top attained by any one of us is 35 cents per for inside men and 30 cents for "hikers," on both Electric and Telephone, which is a very small consideration when you take into consideration the cost of living. So, now, brothers, if any of you should happen this way we shall certainly give you the "glad hand," which is the duty of any and every member of this brotherhood. But should we not be able to get you a job don't be disappointed, for we hope for good times coming when we shall be in a position to say that no "green horn" shall do any work unless with a journeyman no matter how small, and I think we shall have the support of the town in this matter.

In conclusion I wish the fraternity at large a right prosperous New Year.

Yours fraternally,

H. E. SHACKLETON.

Kansas City No. 592.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The new born Local Union No. 592, Fixture Hangers, which came in existence, is doing fine. We meet every Friday night at Labor Headquarters at 8:15. We are having good meetings and hope to see some last forever. Kansas City has been need of a Fixturemens' local for some time, but now we have, within one or two men, all fixture men in Kansas City. Work is slack here now but

we hope to see things open up. The Bank of Commerce building is a fair job. Hodge Fixture Co. has it and Bro. H. G. Willoughby, our President, is the foreman for them. The new addition to the Hotel Baltimore hasn't gone far enough to tell what will be there. Sister Local 124 has her eyes on the job for they are on a strike here and want a fair house to get it. We hope to see Local 124 have success as to the same.

If Bros. Ed. Pickett and Jack Davidson see this write Wm. E. Skinner, as the boys want to get a line from you.

If our delinquent Bro. E. M. Keary does happen to come your way ask him to settle his back dues to Local 124 of Kansas City, Mo., as we gave him a permit the same as Local 124 but he forgot to call on Local 124, or 592 either. I think Bro. Keary forgot about the above, so please let him know, it will refreshen his mind, as he is forgetful.

With a wish of success to all sister locals I will close with notice that Local 592 meets every Friday, Labor Headquarters, 112 Locust St.

WM. E. SKINNER,
Recording Secretary.

Dunkirk No. 593.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well, as it is pretty near the first of the month again will have to try and write a few lines to the brothers to let them know that baby Local No. 593 is advancing in membership right along and hope to amount to something sometime. We have only been organized about two and one-half months, but we have a membership of thirty-two, so you see we have learned a few new ones to carry the green goods.

At present the Bell and the Light company's men are trying to hunt up enough trouble to keep themselves busy, and the Independent company is keeping their men busy installing a 'phone now and then.

Some of the boys are sore because our meetings hold on so long, but I want to tell you all, that the more you attend meetings and the more familiar you get with our lodge work the better results we will get and in a great deal less time and one think more, I want to tell the brothers is to make all of your kicks in the lodge room under head of "Good of the Order," and I don't think but what you will get satisfaction.

Our Local has lost one of our prospective members as Ex-Brother Cooney who was wire chief for the Bell, has resigned to take a position at Lima, Ohio.

We have a few members who are out of work and hope that old Sol will hurry up and shine on both sides of the fence so that construction work will start up again.

Would like to ask through the WORKER if the office of Press Secretary is vacant or if the officer is sick in our neighbor Locals 106, 56 and 41, as we fail to see their letters.

Well, I will hang up after wishing the best to the I. B. E. W.

Yours fraternally,

A. W.,

Press Secretary.

Dunkirk, N. Y., Jan. 29, 1908.

Columbus No. 600.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Local No. 600 wishes to become known to the I. B. E. W. We have not been organized but a few weeks but have been getting along very well. We started out

December 18, 1907, and have been adding a few more to our list every meeting night since. Our meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at Buler's hall, on South High street.

We have to thank Bro. Pilger of L. U. No. 54 for his assistance in helping us to get started in the right direction.

Bro. Myers, P. D. C., could not stay with us as long as he would have liked to, but said he would be back in a short time.

Anyone wishing to correspond with the Financial Secretary will address H. E. Miller, 123½ E. Main street.

Yours truly,

T. W. WILLIAMSON.

Columbus, O., Jan. 20, 1908.

BLAZING THE WAY THROUGH THE FORESTS OF MAINE.

BY STUART REID.

It was my privilege several years ago to hoist the pennant of the American Federation of Labor on a 26-foot sloop and navigate the stormy waters of Northeastern Maine carrying the gospel of unionism to the fisher folks. A few months ago I invaded the forests of the Pine Tree State bent on carrying the same gospel to the woodsmen. My voyage of several years ago was interesting, although attended with many difficulties, but my experiences in the forest primeval were even more interesting and attended with many more difficulties.

I had heard of the West Branch and the picturesque, if somewhat rough, Penobscot man; of Ripogenus, of the falls of Sowadnehunk, of the dead water above Nesowadnehunk of Ambajemackomas, and of the giant Katahdin towering in majestic isolation in the midst of the forest primeval. I had pictured them all in my mind, but when I got there the picture was all wrong. The scenery was grand, the air exhilarating, the mountain inspiring, but after all a month was all I wanted of it, and I left it to the woodsmen without any burning desire to become a fixed inhabitant.

My experiences with the wangan chest and the diet of sowbelly and Y. E. B.'s were not altogether pleasant. I celebrated my return to civilization by devouring with avidity a steak that would have been spurned before my journey into the woods. "Yea, verily," the boarding house steak of days gone by would have been a toothsome morsel after the diet of the woodsman that had been mine for some time.

Acting under instructions from President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, I had journeyed into Maine

to assist the faithful who were struggling to uphold our cause. Arriving in Bangor, I was importuned by several woodsmen to do something for the men that toiled in the lumber districts. As soon as an opportunity presented itself I hid myself to an employment bureau in Bangor and applied for a job as a woodsman. When first I stepped on board the sloop several years ago, I was regarded as a loll-boy, but in that employment bureau I soon learned that if I went into the woods it could only be as a swob. Swob or no swob, I was determined to go into the woods, and into the woods I went to find employment as a dish washer.

My experiences as organizer for the machinists was tough, but shades of Christopher Columbus, my adventures in the woods made them look smooth. I learned that I could not even wash dishes to the satisfaction of a Norwegian gentleman who prepared the daily collations of the woodsmen, sow-belly and J. E. D.'s, the latter part of the menu not being venison as some of the brethren might imagine, but plain, every day beans. My services were so unsatisfactory that I was fired on two different occasions, but that did not worry me much as I easily secured a job in another camp, and as I generally managed to hold on to my job long enough to reach the men I wanted my removal was not at all heart-breaking.

If any of our brothers should ever decide to take a job in the woods I would advise them not to take a trunk with them. They will find a woeful lack of transportation facilities, and may not want to lug a trunk on their back from 20 to 50 miles over roads that are by no means macadamized. They will find

a wangan chest in camp, and they may even be visited by a watch pedler, who will cheerfully sell them a timepiece for from three to five times its value.

If they are at all epicurean in their tastes I would hesitate to advise a sojourn in these same camps. The bill of fare is exceedingly delectable and varied. J. E. D.'s for breakfast, J. E. D.'s for lunch, and J. E. D.'s for supper. The sleeping accomodation is not what might be expected in a modern hotel either. Bunks, gentlemen, bunks, and lively bunks, too.

My companions were certainly not graduates of Harvard, Colby, Bowdoin, or the University of Maine, but I am convinced they would be able to give a good account of themselves in the annual slugging matches that take place on the football fields of these institutions. But, "bless 'em," they are splendid fellows despite their strange oaths and their pugilistic tendencies. Not being a pug I had to keep my mouth closed most of the time, and you can just imagine the misery I endured under such conditions.

It must not be imagined that I was dumb, however, for in the depths of the

woods we held meetings. They were not largely attended, and our meeting places were not illuminated with electric lights. But small as they were, held in the depth of the forest and in the dead of the night, I am convinced they will bear good fruit when the men come into the cities in the spring. The seed is sown aye and rooted.

One evening I received a quiet tip that I might be mistaken for a deer if I remained longer, and not wishing to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant," spoken to me in spirit land, I left the wangan chest, J. E. D.'s and other delights of a logging camp and hied me for civilization.

Probably Van Cleve and other gentlemen of his ilk would have enjoyed a sojourn in the woods under similar conditions. They would at least have the public believe that organizers travel along rose strewn paths and repose on flowery beds of ease. I shall not forget the woods soon, nor the poor fellows who are compelled to toil in them. Organizations, however, will remedy many of the evils and smooth many of the rough places. That organization is on the way and will be perfected.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

President.

- District Council No. 1—Chas. E. P. Taylor,
147 Ridgewood Ave., Newark, N. J.
District Council No. 2—J. J. McLaughlin,
111 Saratoga St., E. Boston, Mass.
District Council No. 3—H. W. Potter,
116 S. Peach St., W. P., Philadelphia, Pa.
District Council No. 4—Thos. J. Cleary,

District Council No. 5—L. L. Donnelly,
2523 State St., Erie, Pa.
District Council No. 6—Oliver Myers,
1022 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio.
District Council No. 7—P. T. McDonald,
240 S. Main St., Connellsville, Pa.
District Council No. 8—J. A. Monjeau,
136 Spruce St., Toronto, Ont.

Secretary-Treasurer.

- Raymond Clark,
774 E. 19th St., Paterson, N. J.
M. T. Joyce,
117 Howard Ave., Boston, Mass.
Robert Dickson,
921 E. Capitol Ave., Washington, D. C.
J. W. Cumfer,
923 Albany St., Schenectady, N. Y.
J. K. Packard,
Lock Box, 425, Elmira, N. Y.
F. W. Stubenvoll,
735 6th St., Detroit, Mich.
J. A. Groves,
416 Wood St., Pittsburg, Pa.
J. L. McBride,
226 Garry St., Winnipeg, Man.

SECOND DISTRICT.

- Ia. and Neb.—James Fitzgerald,
1924 Lyner Ave., Des Moines, Ia.
St. L.—Harry Meyers,
928 N. 17th St., St. Louis, Mo.
Cook Co.—Chas. Milligan,
42 Hammond St., Chicago, Ill.
Ill. and Ind.—W. D. Mullinix,
301 S. Center St., Joliet, Ill.
Tex. and Ark.—W. M. Graham,
208 Main Ave., San Antonio, Tex.
N. W.—Frank Fisher,
National Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
Southern—E. E. Hoskinson,
416 Mary St., Evansville, Ind.

- R. E. Perrin,
1015 9th St., Sioux City, Ia.
W. H. Coleman,
1035 Laramie St., Atchison, Kan.
E. J. Hayes,
76 Aberdeen St., Chicago, Ill.
F. R. McDonald,
14 Cross St., Aurora, Ill.
Frank Swor,
Lock Box 61, Fort Worth, Texas.
P. S. Bixby,
140 Pearl St., Oskosh, Wis.
Dale Smith,
Box 245, Sumner, Ill.

THIRD DISTRICT.

- Pacific—Hugh Murrin,
865 Broadway, Oakland, Cal.
Intermountain—J. R. Currie,
Box 402, Salt Lake, Utah.
Centennial—W. S. Campbell,
German House, Boulder, Colo.

- J. L. Cook,
1543 High St., Fruitvale, Cal.
W. C. Medhurst,
Box 919 Butte, Mont.
Geo. E. Winters,
4603 W. 33d, Denver, Colo.

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY OF LOCAL UNIONS.

Alabama
Birmingham 136
Birmingham 227
Mobile346
Montgomery 363
Sheffield378

Arizona
Globe579
Douglas434
Tucson570

Arkansas
Little Rock 126
Pine Bluff251
Texarkana301
Fort Smith.....346

California
Bakersfield 428
Chico542
Fresno169
Los Angeles. 61
Los Angeles.116
Los Angeles.379
Oakland595
Oakland283
Pasadena418
Pasadena560
Sacramento . 36
Sacramento .340
San Bernardino477
San Diego465
San Diego573
San Francisco6
San Francisco404
San Francisco537
San Jose250
Santa Barbara451
Santa Cruz.526
Santa Rosa.594
Stockton207
Stockton591
Vallejo180
Richmond473
Los Angeles.489

Colorado
Boulder578
Colorado Springs233
Cripple Crk. 70
Denver68
Denver121
Denver479
Pueblo12
Silverton475
Trinidad559

Connecticut
Bridgeport .521
Danbury195
Hartford37
Meriden381
New Haven . 90
Stamford310
Waterbury484
New London.543

Delaware
Wilmington 813

District of Columbia
Washington. 26
Washington 148

Florida
Jacksonville 100
Miami349
Tampa108
Pensacola452

Georgia
Atlanta 84
Atlanta 87
Savannah28

Idaho
Boise City .291
Pocatello449

Indiana
Anderson147
Brazil324
Connersville 590
Elkhart157
Evansville . 16
Fort Wayne.305
Hammond280
Hammond571
Indianapolis. 10
Indianapolis 481
Logansport .209
Marion153
New Albany 286
Peru347
South Bend 132
Terre Haute 25
Terre Haute 279
Vincennes .243

Indian Territory
Ardmore406
Chickasaw460
Tulsa584

Illinois
Alton128
Aurora149
Belleville60
Bloomington 197
Belvidere406
Chicago 9
Chicago49
Chicago124
Chicago282
Chicago376
Chicago381
Danville538
Decatur209
E. St. Louis.309
Elgin117
Freeport387
Granite City 387
Galesburg .184
Joliet176
Kankakee362
Kewanee94
La Salle321
Peoria34
Paris519
Quincy67
Rockford196
Rock Island.109
Springfield 193
Springfield 427
Streator236
Champaign .492
Chicago Heights .506

Iowa
Burlington .525
Boone372
Cedar Rapids.553
Clinton273
Davenport .278
Des Moines .65
Dubuque198
Fort Dodge.554
Keokuk420
Mason City 420
Ottumwa173
Sioux City . 47
Waterloo288

Kansas
Atchison 19
Topeka103
Wichita141

Wichita598
Ft. Scott498

Kentucky
Lexington ..183
Louisville ..112
Louisville ..169
Owensboro ..216
Paducah177

Louisiana
New Orleans 4
New Orleans 130
New Orleans 576
Baton Rouge.315
Shreveport .194

Maine
Millinocket .471
Portland399
Rumford518
Falls518

Maryland
Annapolis448
Baltimore .. 28
Baltimore .. 46
Baltimore ..515
Cumberland 307

Massachusetts
Boston 30
Boston103
Boston104
Boston396
Boston503
Stockton223
Lawrence385
Lowell588
Lynn377
New Bedford 224
North Adams.293
Pittsfield264
Quincy189
Salem269
Springfield . 7
Springfield .566
Worcester . 96
Worcester .485

Michigan
Alpena569
Ann Arbor .171
Battle Creek 445
Bay City150
Detroit17
Detroit18
Detroit553
Grand Rapids 75
Grand Rapids.231
Jackson205
Lansing352
Marquette407
Saginaw145
Traverse City131

Minnesota
Duluth 31
Minneapolis 232
Minneapolis 541
St. Cloud398
St. Paul 23
Winona 74

Mississippi
Jackson257

Missouri
Fulton365
Hannibal350
Joplin 95
Kansas City 124
Kansas City 592
Kansas City 330
Kansas City 356
St. Joseph . 40
St. Louis ... 1

St. Louis ... 2
Sedalia266
Springfield .335
Webb City .543

Montana
Anaconda ...200
Billings532
Butte 65
Great Falls .122
Helena185
Lewistown .550
Missoula408

Nebraska
Beatrice532
Fremont587
Hastings206
Lincoln265
Nebraska City586
Omaha 22
Omaha162

Nevada
Ely549
Goldfield450
Reno401
Rhyolite557
Tonahpah361

New Hampshire
Berlin585
Portsmouth 426

New Jersey
Atlantic City 210
Atlantic City 211
Camden299
Hackensack 422
Jersey City . 15
Jersey City.164
Long Branch.331
Morristown .581
Newark 62
Newark 87
Newark190
Newark508
Newark567
Paterson102
Perth Amboy.358
Plainfield .262
Trenton 29
Paterson486

New Mexico
Albuquerque 306
Las Vegas.552

New York
Albany137
Auburn300
Auburn394
Binghamton.352
Brooklyn502
Buffalo 41
Buffalo 45
Cortland459
Dunkirk593
Elmira139
Glens Falls .389
Hornellsville 92
Ithaca409
Jamestown .106
Kingston277
New Rochelle.127
New York ... 20
New York .270
New York .368
New York .419
New York .534
New York .546
Niagara Falls 68
Oneonta436
Olean214
Oswego328
Ossining555

Poughkeepsie.296
Rochester ... 44
Rochester .. 86
Saratoga Springs .261

Schnectady 35
Schnectady 110
Schnectady 140
Schnectady 538
Schnectady 247
Schnectady 254
Schnectady 267
Schnectady 442
Schnectady 565
Schnectady 539
Schnectady 470
Staten Island.497
Syracuse ... 43
Syracuse ... 79
Syracuse516
Troy392
Utica 42
Utica181
Watertown .421
Yonkers501
White Plains.505
Newark503

North Carolina
Salisbury438
Wilmington .128

North Dakota
 Fargo285

Ohio
Akron 11
Ashtabula143
Canton179
Chillicothe .248
Cincinnati .101
Cincinnati .212
Cincinnati .39
Cleveland . 39
Columbus . 54
Dayton113
Dayton241
E. Liverpool .98
Findlay298
Lima 32
Lorain237
Mt. Vernon . 97
Newark172
Portsmouth .576
Springfield .204
Steubenville 246
Toledo 8
Toledo245
Warren41
Youngstown 62
Youngstown 64
Zanesville .160

Oklahoma
El Reno563
Enid533
Guthrie364
Oklahoma .466
Oklahoma .155
Shawnee 48

Oregon
Astoria517
Portland125
Portland317
Salem512

Pennsylvania
Allentown865
Altoona457
Bloomsburg 107
Connellsville 326
Easton 31
E. M. Chunk 244
Erie 66
Greensburg 379
Harrisburg . 53
Lancaster .. 71
New Brighton.349

CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY OF LOCAL UNIONS.—Con't.

New Castle . 33
 Philidelphia 98
 Philidelphia 287
 Philidelphia 21
 Pittsburg . 5
 Pittsburg . 14
 Pittsburg . 319
 Wilkesbarre 491
 Oil City . 496
 Sunbury . 507
 Scranton . 81
 Sharon . 218
 Tamaqua . 553
 Uniontown . 161
 Warren . 63
 Wilkesbarre 163
 Williams-
 port . 239
 York . 469
 Washington 509

Rhode Island
 Providence . 99
 Providence . 258
 Newport . 268

South Carolina
 Columbia . 382
 Georgetown . 89
 Charleston . 179

South Dakota
 Lead . 577
 Sioux Falls . 360

Tennessee
 Chattanooga 467
 Knoxville . 318
 Memphis . 192
 Nashville . 129
 Memphis . 474
 Jackson . 511

Texas
 Austin . 520
 Beaumont . 221
 Beaumont . 308
 Dallas . 69
 Dennison . 338
 El Paso . 583
 Fort Worth . 156
 Houston . 66
 Palestine . 388
 San Antonio 60
 Waco . 72
 Wichita Falls 596
 Eagle Pass . 51
 Sherman . 272
 Galveston . 527
 Paris . 320

Utah
 Ogden . 316
 Salt Lake
 City . 57
 Salt Lake
 City . 354

Vermont
 Barre . 400
 Burlington . 330
 Burlington . 561

Virginia
 Lynchburg . 113
 Norfolk . 80
 Roanoke . 425

Washington
 Aberdeen . 458
 Bremerton . 574
 Bellingham 314
 Everett . 191
 Olympia . 580
 Seattle . 77
 Seattle . 202
 Seattle . 217
 Spokane . 73
 Tacoma . 76
 Tacoma . 483
 North Yakima . 523
 Walla Walla . 556

West Virginia
 Charleston . 256
 Charleston . 480
 Parkersburg 168
 Wheeling . 141
 Wheeling . 142

Wisconsin
 Ashland . 255
 Appleton . 201
 Beloit . 311
 Green Bay . 158
 Grand
 Rapids . 231
 Grand
 Rapids . 440

La Crosse . 135
 Madison . 159
 Marinette . 274
 Milwaukee . 83
 Milwaukee . 494
 Milwaukee . 525
 Milwaukee . 530
 Oshkosh . 187
 Racine . 430
 Wausau . 341
 Superior . 276
 Kenosha . 562

Wyoming
 Cheyenne . 415

CANADA
Alberta
 Edmonton . 544

British Columbia
 Vancouver . 213
 Victoria . 230
 Greenwood . 524

Manitoba
 Winnipeg . 166
 Winnipeg . 435
Nova Scotia
 Sydney . 344

Ontario
 Ft. William 339
 Hamilton . 105
 Ottawa . 540
 Toronto . 114
 Toronto . 353
 London . 120

Quebec
 Montreal . 463
 Saskatchewan
 Regina . 572
 Saskatoon . 589
 Moose Jaw . 568

A New Departure!

"Made by Klein"

This is a picture of Klein's new "Chicago Grip"



WEAR THE I. B. E. W.

Cuff Buttons

SOLID GOLD, (PER PAIR), \$2.00
 ROLLED GOLD, (PER PAIR), \$1.50

Send in your order now, while the supply lasts. All orders must be accompanied by the necessary amount of cash.

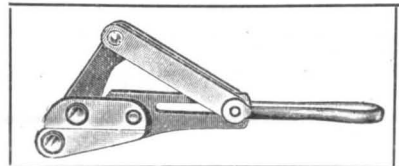
ADDRESS

PETER W. COLLINS

Grand Secretary

Pierik Building

Springfield, Ill.



It is made of Steel throughout, and Nickel Plated. It is a well proportioned and thoroughly reliable tool. It is just the right shape to handle quickly, is light, and when placed on the wire will hold itself in place. It can be pushed out on the wire so as to get as much slack as necessary, and it pulls straight, leaving no kinks in the wire. It covers all the essential points required of a grip to do good work on either iron or copper wire.

No. 358-A holds No. 6 wire and smaller; net price \$2.00 each.

At your service,

MATHIAS KLEIN & SONS

93 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.

All prominent supply houses carry our products.

See our Exhibit at the Electrical Show
 Chicago, January 13-25, 1908.



"YANKEE" TOOLS are the tools For Electricians

They are the most satisfactory and down-to-date Labor-Saving Tools made. The No. 15 is especially constructed for Electricians' use and all classes of mechanics having a large number of smaller screws to drive.



RATCHET SCREW DRIVER No. 15 (4 sizes).

The knurled washer at its base allows the blade to be turned with the thumb and forefinger until the screw is well set, then to be driven home with the ratchet. Your dealer has them. *Send for Tool Book.*

NORTH BROS. MFG. CO., Philadelphia, Pa.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

Charter Fee, for each member.....	\$1 00	Set of Books, including Receipts, Warrants, etc	\$5 00
Seal	3 50	ELECTRICAL WORKER subscription, per year	1 00
Rolled-Gold Charms	2 00	Treasurer's Account Book	50
Solid Gold Emblematic Buttons, ea	1 00	Treasurer's Receipt Book	25
Heavy Rolled-Gold Emblematic Buttons, each	50	Warrant Book for R. S.	25
Solid Gold Cuff Buttons, per pair..	2 00	Financial Secretary's Ledger, 200 pages	1 50
Rolled Gold Cuff Buttons, per pair	1 50	Financial Secretary's Ledger, 400 pages	2 50
Constitutions, per 100	5 00	Minute Book for R. S.	75
Membership Cards, per 100	1 00	Day Book	50
Traveling Cards, per dozen	50	Roll Call Book	50
Withdrawal Cards, per dozen	50		
Application Blanks, per 100	50	NOTE—The above articles will be supplied only when the requisite amount of cash accompanies the order, otherwise the order will not be recognized. All supplies sent by us have postage or express charges prepaid.	
Extra Rituals, each	25		
Working Cards, per 100	50		
Official Letter Paper, per 100.....	50		
Official Envelopes, per 100	50		
Official Notice of Arrears, per 100..	50		
F. S. Report Blanks, per dozen....	50		

Address **PETER W. COLLINS, G. S.**

**"DIAMOND H"
SWITCHES**
Hart Mfg. Co. Hartford, Conn.

BRANCH OFFICES

New York.....	203 Broadway
Boston	170 Summer St.
Chicago.....	167 So. Canal St.
Toronto, Ont.....	52 Adelaide St. W.
London, Eng.....	25 Victoria St.

UNION MADE HEADLIGHT OVERALLS

**A Smile of
Satisfaction
With Every Pair**

**And Ten
Reasons
Why**

"Wide elastic adjustable Suspenders."
Can't bind or slip off shoulders.

"Very high cut waist."

"Unusually large and roomy pockets."

"Plenty of cloth in thigh and seat."
Comfort in sitting, stooping, turning or twisting.

"Extra wide comfortable legs."
You can get in or out of "Headlights" with ease.

"Adjustable neck band."
Assures a snug and perfect fit to any size neck.

"Safety watch and pencil pocket."
Your watch can't come out till you want it.

"Extra wide, perfect fitting, 'keep clean' Bib."

"Large, wide, roomy sleeves."
Perfect comfort in arm movement.

"Adjustable dust proof cuffs."
Fit any size wrist.
Keep out dirt, dust and cinders.

If there is no HEADLIGHT agency in your town we will sell you direct. Price \$1.00 per garment.
Express prepaid anywhere in U. S.

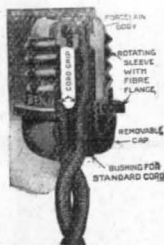
LARNED, CARTER & CO. MAKERS DETROIT



NEW BENJAMIN ATTACHMENT PLUG

NATIONAL CODE STANDARD

Cat. No. 903--List Price . . \$0.25



Rotating sleeve makes it possible to attach plug
without turning device

Twisting of cord is unnecessary

ITS POINTS OF EXCELLENCE OUTNUMBER THOSE OF ANY OTHER

Write for Descriptive Circular

BENJAMIN ELECTRIC MFG. CO.

NEW YORK

CHICAGO

SAN FRANCISCO

ELIMINATE THE ELEMENT OF CHANCE

in buying CARBON
PRODUCTS by ordering

COLUMBIA

the kind that has an estab-
lished reputation for HIGH
QUALITY

NATIONAL CARBON CO., CLEVELAND, O.